

Labor-1917

Mrs. Katie Johnson

Has Selected for Her Demonstrations at the Cooking School

The Atlanta 2-17-17
Atlanta's Famous Flours

Capitola FLOUR

and

Miss Dixie

Self-Rising Flour

NY C FINANCIAL AMERICA
AUGUST 24, 1917

THE PULLMAN AND THE NEGRO

Pullman company's profits for the last fiscal year were the greatest in its history.—News Item.

This is the most cheering financial news that has come forth in many a day. The Pullman Company is a great institution. It has had as its nominal, if not actual head, Robert T. Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln.

The American people know Abraham Lincoln as the emancipator of the negro. The Pullman Company has done more than any other corporation in America to degrade the negro.

Although the company has prospered as few corporations have prospered, its policy has been not to pay a living wage to its car porters but to make them graft on the public.

The American public pays extra fare for the privilege of riding in a Pullman car. To make it little short of necessary for the traveler to pay an additional fee for service is dishonest.

But the dishonesty of the system has its worst phase in making the porter, member of a race rising from slavery to a higher and better level, be a beggar, a soft-soaping, coin-coaxing creature, instead of an upright, honorable, manly man, who is paid an honest wage for an honest service and who gets his wage from his employer and not through the indulgence or the charity of the public at large.

The system by which the Pullman Company has prospered has not been creditable. The connection of the honored name of Lincoln with the corporation has been a sorrow, a great sorrow, to men, black and white, who revere the memory of the Great Emancipator.

If ever the Pullman Company is to free itself of the practice that has brought to it the reproach of decent people, it should do it now when it is steeped in riches as even it never has known before.

GEORGIA, Fulton County.
To the Superior Court of Said County:
The petition of L. S. Stanfield, J. F. Preyer and J. H. Hightower, all of said state and county, respectfully shows.

1. That they desire for themselves, their associates and successors to become incorporated, and made a body politic under the name and style of the

"COLORED HOTEL AND RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION"

2. The term for which petitioners ask to be incorporated is twenty years, with the usual privilege of renewal at the expiration of said term.

3. The principal office and place of business of the proposed corporation shall be in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia, but petitioners desire the right to do business and establish branch offices in other parts of said state, and in any other states that by comity recognizes corporations of like character.

4. The purpose of the proposed corporation is to bring together in a social way colored employees of hotels, cafes, railways and clubs in order to improve their efficiency.

Mr. Davis was cordially received, the audience rising and greeting him with the chautaugua salute. Among the things he said briefly were:

"That his interest in the Odd Fellows was not confined to its secrets or to the things that were peculiar to the fraternity, but that he regarded the Order as an instrumentality through which he might render the race and country a service, and that the fundamentals necessary for Odd Fellowship to succeed and all other racial matters were race pride, race appreciation, race consciousness, not in interest of the individual, but in interest of the race; that Odd Fellows, Pythians, Masons and the Church of God among Negroes must succeed not only for the principles for which they stand, but for the racial assets.

We appeal to the Odd Fellows to stand by the institution because it is theirs, and their standing by their interest at home and conserving their property rights will in no sense prejudice the interest they have in the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows of America; that the jurisdiction of Georgia was still a part and parcel of the national branch; it has not severed its connection and would not; there were not enough Morrisises and Sub Committees in the world to put us out of our rights. There is nobody in the state, nor in the Order that could put us out and dispossess us of our rights in the national branch any more than they have been able to divest us of our property

PULLMAN PORTERS ELECT OFFICERS AT JERSEY CITY

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—At a meeting of the Pullman Palace Car Porters and Railway Employees Beneficial Association held on Thursday evening, May 17, the following officers were duly elected for the ensuing year:

J. T. Brown, president; Forrest Hayes, 1st vice-president; Henry Forrest, 2nd vice-president; L. Williams, financial secretary; J. B. Avery, assistant financial secretary; J. T. Everett, treasurer; Thomas H. Williams, recording secretary; Henry Martin, assistant recording secretary; John A. Scott, chaplain; L. E. Mabrey, sergt.-at-arms; John A. Allen, chairman Board of Directors; J. T. Brown, Forrest Hayes, L. Williams, J. T. Everett, Geo. W. Person, T. A. Spraggins, Fred N. Carter, and E. C. Snead, directors.

The resolution introduced by Harry North, reading as follows: "Resolved, that during the present crisis of the country any member of this association who may be called to the colors, shall be exempt from all dues, and taxes during such service," was unanimously adopted.

Wonderful Cooking Shown

Mrs. Johnson will make her famous Orange Layer Cake from these flours.

Her selection of the Atlanta favorites is a compliment to the company, and insures success through its use.

Not only will these flours be used for cake baking, but in all other demonstrations in the school where flour is necessary.

MRS. JOHNSON USES AND RECOMMENDS:
CAPITOLA and **MISS DIXIE**
Plain Flour Self-Rising Flour

YOUR GROCER SELLS THEM

Atlanta Milling Co.

ATLANTA GA

ATLANTA INDEPENDENT COOK-
ING SCHOOL
The Atlanta Independent

In our last issue we announced that we would conduct a cooking school at Bethel A. M. E. church in connection with the Church Fair, beginning February 19th and running through the week. School to convene at 3 P. M. each day to 5 P. M.; but owing to the fact that the church could not get ready with the fair, we have transferred the cooking school from Bethel church to the Odd Fellows Roof Garden. The facilities on the Roof Gar-

den are far superior to those at Bethel from the standpoint of light, sanitation and ventilation. The Roof Garden is the best fitted place in the city for such a scientific experiment.

The school will be free to all colored women who desire to attend and avail themselves of the instructions offered. Madam Katie M. Johnson, teacher of domestic science at Morris Brown University has been secured as demonstrator, which insures an up-to-date program each day, Madam Johnson being a graduate from the famous Booker T. Washington School at Tuskegee, which is one of the best schools

of domestic science in the country. Admission and lessons will be free. No charges whatever. Each lady who attends will be requested to bring along a saucer and a teaspoon for personal use, to be taken home each afternoon and brought back to school the next day. We trust that our women will take advantage of this opportunity to receive instructions in scientific cooking.

Here is an opportunity in this school, and the Independent takes great pleasure in inviting those who desire to attend the cooking school and learn

valuable lessons therefrom. A great deal of sickness and bad health are directly traced to poorly cooked food in the household and it cannot be estimated the amount of waste committed. Here in this school you are afforded the opportunity to learn these valuable lessons; and it is for that reason that the Independent has opened this school for our people. It will be under the management of Mrs. Katie M. Johnson, teacher of domestic science at Morris Brown University, who graduated in domestic science at the famous Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, and is qualified in every particular. She will be aided by others who are familiar with domestic science, during the five days that this school will be open. She will put her whole heart and soul in the work and will be glad to instruct all of those who wish to attend.

The Independent feels an interest in this feature of our people's welfare and begs leave to hope that it will be a great blessing to them. It has gone to considerable expense to provide the necessary equipment to conduct this school and make it helpful and beneficial to every housekeeper; but it will feel amply repaid if those who attend will secure such valuable help from this school as will result in better cooking and more saving in their homes. Don't forget that the school opens the 19th inst., promptly at 3:00 P. M.

FREE COOKING SCHOOL.

Tuesday May 1st, The Atlanta Independent will open the second term of its free cooking school for the benefit of the public. The school will be held in the Odd Fellows Roof Garden where the first term was held. The public is cordially invited to be present and get the benefit of the lessons and instructions. In the school will be taught the lessons of thrift and economy; the proper and economic preparation of food, how to buy and the importance of using standardized merchandise.

In view of the high cost of living and the low wages, it is eminently necessary that every housewife, cook or student attend these lessons in the midst of the scarcity of food and the high prices demanded for the necessities of life. Many and varied will be the exhibits and demonstrations, and it is earnestly hoped that the school will be supported during its second term of four days as well as it was the first term of five days.

We will announce the program and demonstrator in our next issue. Don't forget the date and place—on the Odd Fellows Roof Garden, The Atlanta Independent's Free Cooking School.

KANSAS CITY MO STAR

"JACKSON."

For many years the greatest social function in all this Western country was the annual Priests of Pallas ball. An invitation to that ball was considered a high favor and distinction, and the pressure to get invitations was so strong, from every source, that the directors of the P. O. P. gave over the business of issuing invitations to a mysterious personage called "Jackson." If you were among the favored ones a messenger boy would call at your home some day and leave an engraved card asking you in the most formal manner to come to the ball, and it would be signed simply "Jackson." The secret of Jackson's identity was well kept for years, and then it gradually leaked out that it was none other than Jackson, the negro janitor, doorkeeper and general utility man of the Commercial Club rooms. The directors of the Priests of Pallas needed a name and they took Jackson's because everybody liked him.

For twenty-eight years Jackson served the Commercial Club with peculiar tact and faithfulness. He had a quiet, courteous manner that won the regard of everyone who knew him. The smile that accompanied his, "How do you do, Mr. Jones," when he took the visitor's hat at the club's meetings, is recalled with pleasure by hundreds of Kansas City business men. Jackson's greeting was really always a feature of the meetings and Jackson behind the punch bowl—what sight could be more grateful?

His position in life was a humble one; he was a negro servant, but the biggest men in this community respected him, and were glad to be respected by him.

Jackson has been forced to give up his place now. He is getting old, and his health is not good. He deserves rest and comfort in his declining years.

ANOTHER JIM-CROW INSULT TO COLORED

A HOUSEMAID'S SCHOOL BILL FOR COLORED ONLY ACTUALLY INTRODUCED INTO A STATE LEGISLATURE AND OF A NORTHERN STATE AT THAT—A PUBLIC SCHOOL JIM CROW FOR MENIALS.

Louisville, Ky.—The people of this section are deeply interested in a bill introduced into the Indiana Legislature for the establishment at New Albany of a housemaids' training school for Negro women. A similar bill was introduced two years ago and passed the Senate, but did not get through the House, because of lack of attention. The bill just introduced provides an appropriation of \$25,000 for the maintenance of a school.

Labor - 1917

Atlanta Independent's Cooking School

MADAM KATIE A. JOHNNSON
DEMONSTRATOR

Odd Fellows Roof Garden

Monday, February 19th to Friday,
February 23rd, Inclusive

SESSIONS FROM 3:00 P. M. TO 5:00 P. M.
EACH DAY

INSTRUCTIONS FREE

The school is conducted by the Atlanta Independent for the benefit of the colored women of Atlanta, and a cordial invitation is extended to every colored woman who desires to learn how to cook wholesome and palatable food. Scientific, economic cooking thoroughly taught.

Valuable Premiums Will Be
Given Away During the Week

AMONG THEM WILL BE

A First Class Gas Cooking Stove

Furnished by the Atlanta Gas Light Co.

LOCAL PAINTERS MAKE BITTER CRITICISM OF MINISTERS.

Editor Louisville News:

Allow me space in your valuable columns to express my indignation against another form of evil done to the Negro by our beloved leaders, which is segregation in a more vital form than denying us our choice of seats at public affairs in the House of God. I believe there are some ministers of the gospel who are trying to uplift the race and make this world fit to live in, and I also believe there is a class of them who "wear the livery of heaven to serve the devil."

Humble Goodell, a few years ago, said, "The Negro church is a curse to the nation." I took him to task for it at the time, but I owe him an apology now. The C. M. E. church, owned and supported by Negroes for Negroes was painted last week by white men. Not a Negro painting firm of contractors had a chance to make a bid. Our firm in that same church donated money for the Day Nursery. A few months ago the Colored people bought an old church at Thirteenth and Broadway and the white people set it on fire. The pastor held rally after rally to raise funds to repair the same, and behold the work was given to some of the same people who had probably set it on fire.

The Negro preachers are not only promoting segregation in the churches but they are wringing the hard-earned coin from Negroes to rivet the chains of poverty upon them and to enrich our oppressors. One of the white painters fell from the church on Chestnut street and was killed, and I am sorry for it; but it may have been the hand of God as a judgment and warning against false leaders amongst us.

Thru such leadership the condition of the Negro from year to year has grown more forlorn and deplorable. They are willing to humiliate, starve and degrade us for life in exchange for a white man's momentary grin. Some day the Negro will begin to think for himself. Some day he will cease to put his money in bottomless bags. Some day he will refuse to build forts behind which his enemies may crouch and shoot at him and his. Some day he will learn to repudiate such leadership as now comes from the Negro ministry.

EVANS & FURST,
Contracting Painters.

THE SERVANT PROBLEM.

The inexorable law of life is work, and the individual who appreciates the truth of this philosophy is blessed. In

the beginning it was divinely decreed that man should live from the sweat of his brow, and there is no escape from the penalty of this decree. There is no phase of human endeavor in which the law is not working unceasingly. It matters not whether the field is science, art, literature, industry, by muscle or brain, success depends upon the inflexible law or war on idleness.

The servant problem is a grave and complicated question, and threatens the highest development of our economic life. If the South is to reach its rightful place in the economic and industrial equation of our national life, this much-mooted question must be settled and settled right. Any question not settled right is not settled at all, and the labor problem can not be permanently settled if the principles of equitable adjustment and the equal division of profits are excluded. Labor is entitled to reasonable compensation for satisfactory service, and capital is likewise entitled to reasonable returns on its investment. The servant is worthy of his hire, and the employer is entitled to an honest day's work for an honest dollar.

There are two classes of people equally affected and entering into the servant problem—the employer and the employe. Both are equally benefited or injured by any deficiency in the service, or inadequacy in pay. Wherever there is difference of opinion or conditions existing between a people or classes of people, the first step necessary and tantamount to settlement is, for the disputants to find common ground to stand upon in order to find out how far they differ; and in the settlement of the labor problem in the South it is fitting for the Negro, who constitutes the employee class, and the white man who constitutes the employing class, to get together and dig at the root of the evil with a view of discovering the cause of the trouble. If the pay is not remunerative, it should be made sufficiently so to inspire confidence and pride in the laboring man for his vocation. If the service is not proficient, stable and reliable, it is the duty of the servant class to set about at once to cure the defect, and prepare to render a service as good as the dollar it expects to receive.

The employer, though enjoying a seeming advantage, is as dependent

upon the employee as the employee is upon the employer, and ought to be as much interested in the development of a trustworthy and reliable servant class as the servant people are in high wages. The life of the nation depends more largely upon the efficiency of the men and women who work with the hands than any other class. They are the sinew and backbone of every other calling, and should receive both attention and reward in proportion to the importance of the relation they bear to the national life.

The fundamental defect in our social system has been, and is, labor underpaid, and in its effort to play even with capital, it has largely destroyed both its efficiency and stability. The man who works with the hands is the only artisan who adds any real wealth to our national character. He is the developer of our resources, the feller of our forests, the builder of our railroads, the producer of our farm products, and it is his hands that add value to the product of the mine, forest, field and shop. Every other vocation depends upon the horny sons of toil for support and sustenance. And fitting in the social status, as the servant does, the same care and attention should be given his development and character that is given the doctor, lawyer, teacher, preacher or any other professional class.

If it is necessary to develop special schools for the trades, professions, agriculture and business, why is it not essentially necessary to do something to improve the competency of those who are to render you domestic service? Why not build schools of domestic science which would include courses for every class of servants to be employed about the house — the cook, chambermaid, butler, coachman, gardner, and every other fellow who is necessary to contribute to home comfort?

In these schools the dignity of labor could be successfully taught. The colored man's education has been largely superficial and has had a tendency to educate him away from work instead of to it. The school of domestic science could put as much stress upon the value of an education in its walls as the colleges do upon a course in classics. As it is, there is not a woman in our city who graduated from one of our schools who would not feel that it would forever disgrace her to accept a position in a white man's kitchen or dining room. They feel that it is much more becoming and dignified to teach a one-horse school for \$15 per month than it

would be to be an intelligent domestic at \$50 per month.

We would have no lawyers, doctors, or other professionals if the state and philanthropy had made no provisions for their education, and the South will not have an intelligent, reliable and moral servant class until it gives some attention to its education and development. The white man can not reasonably expect any better service from the black man than he gives him pay and treatment. It is natural to hit back, and the employer need not expect the highest and most beneficial service so long as the servant class feels that it is being deprived of its rightful share of the profits of honest toil. You can not develop reliability and efficiency by bad treatment. Then the employer can not reasonably expect his servants to have any more interest in his welfare than he manifests in the common weal of the servant. The interest must be mutual and common if both parties receive the greatest returns. Give your servants fair wages, decent tenement quarters, school for the children, and enough holiday to attend church and necessary business. Pay them enough wages to save a dollar and provide a home, and you will improve the efficiency and stability of the servant class in the community.

Our white neighbors must do this before they condemn the race for failure to constitute a reliable and competent labor factor in the community. Do your duty by your servants, and then, if they do not make good, displace them; but if you mistreat them, when you displace them for an experiment with another, you will find the same results. It is not fair to eject labor to manifest any greater interest in capital than capital manifests in labor. If interest is uniform, results will be. Help the servant to dignify his or her labor by lightening the burdens of toil in every way possible. Establish a code of moral ethics and help the servant to live up to it. Have him understand, the more intelligent, the greater demand for his service. Teach the Negro that ditching and cooking is no more of a Negro's job than it is a white man's. That it is any man's work who has not honorably risen above it. And that it is no more disgrace to use a shovel than a pen. That the rail-splitter is just as useful and honorable as the professional man, and fits his place in the equation of human affairs with just as much dignity and just as much service to the community and state.

THE PUELM... HOUSTON TEX POST... SEPTEMBER 8, 1917... Daily Financial America... opportunity to pay its respects to the Pullman company for the one disgraceful feature of its marvelously successful business, viz., the underpayment of its negro porters with the consequent shifting of the chief burden of their compensation upon the traveling public.

This is an old complaint against the Pullman company, and one that will add many a year to its hoary age before the offending company applies the remedy.

Daily Financial America charges the Pullman company with exacting an extra fare from the passenger for the privilege of riding in a Pullman car, which is not technically true, of course, but which is actually true, nevertheless.

The passenger does not have to tip the porter unless he wants to, the company holds, and in a sense that is true, but the passenger knows that without the tip the service will suffer and he wants the service. Not one passenger in one hundred really wants to tip. He feels that the fare exacted by the company is sufficient, but when the servitor pulls that infernal whisk broom on him upon approaching his destination, it is a "stand and deliver" proceeding.

Daily Financial America can scarcely hope to stir any sense of shame in the corporation. The Hon. Robert T. Lincoln, the head of it, is quite as callous to appeal as he is to abuse or ridicule. The company has found that it can get by with a nominal wage and that the traveling public will make up the balance.

We can heartily agree with this view of our contemporary: "But the dishonesty of the system has its worst phase in making the porter, member of a race rising from slavery to a higher and better level, be a beggar, a soft-soaping, coin-coaxing creature, instead of an upright, honorable, manly man, who is paid an honest wage for an honest service and who gets his wage from his employer and not through the indulgence or the charity of the public at large."

But this kind of talk gets neither the porters nor the travelers anywhere. A self-respecting porter who would decline to accept tips would have to quit his job or starve to death, so he continues to "soft-soap" and the Hon. Robert continues to smile when the anti-tipsters complain.

It is being suggested that Uncle Sam work upon the swollen profits of the corporation for war purposes, and the public generally would like to see that very thing, because next to hating to pay its porters the Pullman company hates to pay taxes. It is pos-

sible that a lively excess profit rate might induce the company to devote a larger share of its profits to wages for its porters as preferable to paying the money out in taxes.

Anyway, the public would like to see some power wise and strong enough to compel the company to pay those porters and mitigate the eternal grafting upon the public.

TO START SCHOOL FOR THE TRAINING OF NEGRO COOKS

NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE
AUGUST 23, 1917

Expense of the Classes Will
Be Borne by Local
Gas Company.

Under the auspices and at the expense of the New Orleans Gas Company, a school of household art and economics for negro women will be established in New Orleans within the next few weeks. Blanche Armwood Perkins will have charge of the school.

Courses of twenty lessons will be given to all who apply for enrollment, and no charge of any sort for instruction will be made. At the conclusion of each individual course, the cook will receive a certificate of graduation, to be used by the graduate cooks when seeking employment.

No definite site for the new school has been settled upon, nor has any definite action with regard to another proposed branch of this same service been taken—the latter being expressed in the hope that the new school may be made an adjunct to the New Orleans public school system, where negro children above the sixth grade may receive instruction in domestic science.

"The idea is not only to teach the students how to cook," Walter J. Schwenk, assistant secretary of the New Orleans Gas Light Company, explained, "because New Orleans already has the finest cooks in the world. We want to teach them how to use gas—and above all how to use it economically."

Blanche Perkins lectured Wednesday afternoon at the gas company's office, Baronne and Common streets, on the subject of "Victory Desserts."

"It will not be necessary to forego desserts during war time," she said. "We can save money and still have dessert. We will figure the dessert in as part of the meal, in the future, instead of as a sort of extra frill. Nowadays we eat what we need of meat and potatoes and vegetables, and then wonder if we have room for dessert, not figuring that the pudding have their nutrient value just as meat or potatoes have. If we figure the dessert in as a part of the regular nutritious portion of the meal, we can retain desserts even on a war economy basis."

SENATE RECONSIDERS
REPEAL OF LABOR LAW
Constitution 74
Motion Made by President

Olive Wins by Margin of One Vote.

After a lengthy debate the senate Tuesday morning reconsidered its action of last Friday in passing the bill of Senator Carswell for the repeal of the contract labor law. The contest for the reconsideration was spirited and the reconsideration was accomplished by the close vote of 21 to 20.

The motion to reconsider was made by President Olive, who took the floor of the senate in behalf of his motion, Senator Wohlwendler presiding.

President Olive gave a history of the contract labor law and declared that repeal this law would take away from the small farmer his only protection against the inroads of large corporations upon farm labor. He hotly assailed the action of employment agents who took negroes from the south to the north where they are "murdered in maudlin riots."

The opposition to the motion to reconsider was led by Senator Carswell, author of the bill to repeal the law who asserted that the law worked great hardship upon farm labor and honest employers of farm labor through prosecutions or threatened prosecutions instigated by unscrupulous labor employers.

A general debate, participated in nearly all of the senators ensued.

The vote upon the motion to reconsider was as follows:

To Reconsider—Senators Andrews, Beauchamp, Beck, DeJarnette, Elders, Fickel, Gilmore, Heath, Hendricks, Hullend, Hummer, Kirby, Loftin, Logan, Munroe, Odum, Peacock, Price, Redwine, Steve, Yeomans. Total 21.

Against Reconsideration—Senators Blawie, Brown, Bynum, Carswell, Council, Denny, Dickerson, Dukes, Dykes, Edward, Field, Hopkins, Leonard, Merry, Moore, Riner, Townsend, Weaver, Wohlwendler. Total 20.

ATLANTA INDEPENDENT COOKING SCHOOL A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

The Atlanta Independent Cooking School was a great success from start to finish, considering the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was good, and it came up in every respect to the expectation of its promoters.

Mrs. Corne Parks, the principal demonstrator, and Mrs. Katie Johnson, her assistant, never showed to greater advantage than in the sessions just closed. From Monday, P. M., when the school opened, until it closed, Wednesday, 5 P. M., the instruction and demonstrations given were entirely up to the standard, and reflected great credit upon both demonstrators and those who attended.

From every direction come echoes of praise from the women and girls who attended this school. They have gone away seeing what they need to

know, and thoroughly resolved to add to their stock of knowledge in the conservation and cooking of food. They carried away many valuable recipes, which will be helpful to them in making palatable dishes in their many homes. The Independent feels amply paid for its pains in giving our women and girls this opportunity to learn the science and art of cooking and seasoning, and it promises that it will continue to give these free cooking schools from time to time, because it thinks it is rendering a public service. It takes this opportunity to tender its sincerest thanks to the demonstrators, Mesdames Parks and Johnson, and extend a cordial welcome to the young women and girls who manifested such intense interest in the opportunity which the Atlanta Independent Cooking School offered them.

SENATOR BURKE DEPENDS FULL CREW BILL

This means that he is also against the Race Trainmen handling the switch orders; in fact, the full crew bill means to deprive the railroad companies of using Colored train porters where they are to perform the duties of a brakeman. The railroads in the state of Pennsylvania are trying hard to take from the statute books, by fair means or foul, the full crew law bill that was placed there by the white Brotherhood of Trainmen in their own interest and not for the black trainmen, and Gov. Brumbaugh stands by the white Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen in the state of Pennsylvania. The full crew bill means again a closed shop against the black man, and Senator Burke is elected to his seat by the railroad men of Pennsylvania. From a sense of decency and fairness, in the interest of justice and humanity, the railroad companies should get the full crew bill law repealed and voted out of the state. Where there is a full crew law in a state you do not see any train porters using a switch key.

Yours very truly,
JOHN R. WINSTON,
Executive Chairman, Brotherhood of Railroad Train Porters of America.

Washington, D. C.

A meeting of colored wage-earning women of the District of Columbia was held at the Columbia Academy, 704 T street northwest, yesterday afternoon, when an organization was formed with the following officers elected: Miss Jeannette Carter, president; Dr. Julia H. Coleman, secretary; Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, treasurer. Addresses were made by E. W. R. Quivers, Mrs. Terrell, the Rev. W. A. Taylor, Mrs. L. H. Burrell, T. Thomas Fortune, James Montgomery and Dr. Julia P. H. Coleman. The organization will be known as the Women's Wage-Earners' Association, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Labor-1917

Firms

SOME CONCRETE FACTS CONCERNING THE EXODUS

The Observer, 7/21/17

Special to The OBSERVER.

After making an exhaustive study under peculiarly favorable auspices the writer is able to advance some light upon the subject of the Negroes' degree of success in the North; and state some of the results already apparent.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began with one crew of construction workers three years ago and today operates more than sixty-five labor camps whose capacity ranges from twenty-five to two hundred and fifty each. Several Negro foremen, clerks and agents are positions directly resulting. At Cleveland, Ohio, Cumberland, Indiana and Grafton, West Va., many laborers have moved into the more skilled occupations in round houses, yards and shops.

The desirability of the Negro, making due allowance for a reasonable percentage of misfits and failures, has been so emphasized that the general secretary of the B. & O. R. R. Y. C. A. has made definite arrangements for an extensive campaign of welfare work among them and the Railroad Co. has already made appropriations to this end. The Penna. R. R. engages a Negro welfare superintendent and staff in this work. The quarters provided at some places along the system put to shame many so-called hotels and demonstrate satisfaction as to the quality of service, else this expense of a permanent character would not be in effect.

The tobacco interests in Connecticut, through the Urban league of New York, has for two successive seasons used Negroes; this year many are being provided with homes of solid construction and years of employment is guaranteed to men with families.

The New Haven Railroad has from its forces promoted several Negroes to positions of responsibility that require solidity of character and a high order of intelligence.

The Auto Tire Industries at Akron, Ohio, have absorbed many in that territory, often from railroads' shipments, and their home building operations indicate more than a temporary period of employment.

The attitude of the elective interest at Schenectady, New York, is one that would be assumed by any concern actuated by the interests of a moment.

At Seattle, Washington, Negroes have been so pronouncedly successful as stewards that in less than a year's service they have become the object of competition when particularly capable work of this character is desired.

The number of demit cards handled by lodges, the number of new watch-care members admitted to Northern churches is a barometer that has shown "high" reading.

The Southern banks and insurance companies have been obliged to take official cognizance of the situation to the extent that enlarged accounts, changes of address and increased mail business has in some cases almost compelled office routine changes and added clerical forces.

One company, the Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, the largest Negro financial enterprise in America, has found it advisable to place change of address cards in their advertising matter, not to retain the business of migrators as may be supposed but to assist their office force by encouraging promptness to obtain changes of address and by placing blanks of a uniform size in the hands of the people.

The foregoing is not all of the writer's observations of this movement.

The most obvious net result will be an improved economic and civil condition for these who remain in the North long enough to outlive the sporadic outbursts of objection in some quarters.

The natural predicate of this is an improved condition in the South where protection must be assumed to retain the laborers remaining. The good Southern employer, out of a dollar and cents need, will be obliged to interest himself actively in community matters, and compel more equitable administration of laws and sponsor the repeal of the more distasteful enactment. He will be found to give expression to his heretofore silent friendliness, thereby modifying public opinion, the foundation of legislation. His friendship will be forced to the open where its weight will be felt to the advantage of that great majority of Negroes who remain in the South.

The final analysis proving an added advantage all round in that conditions all over the country will be uniform.

Negro Iron Workers

Get Fair Treatment

COMPANY TAKES INTEREST IN EMPLOYEES

Housing and Neighborhood Conditions Offer Many Advantages

Newport News, Va., September 26.—

One of the best industrial opportunities has just been brought to light at Newport News, Va. The National League on Urban Conditions Among Negro has been looking out for these fields of labor where colored men are offered a man's chance for a real future. Dr. George E. Haynes, a secretary of the League has recently made a survey of conditions surrounding the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. He has found that this company employs over 7,000 men; about 3,500 of these men are colored men. Hundreds of colored men have worked for this firm from 3 to 25 years and the investigation shows that the employers are treating the workmen with a fairness that makes every Negro employed feels at home. For instance, the president of the company has appointed a colored man over each department, thru whom the management can learn of anything affecting the welfare of the men. Besides, any man no matter where he works or what his job is, can see any of the head officials up to the president

about any matter where there is any trouble or dissatisfaction.

Dr. Haines also found that the company recognizes that good pay is one of the best ways to attract and hold colored men of character who want steady jobs. This company is now beginning men on rough labor on 24c an hour and after four weeks trial if the man stays, he is raised to 25c an hour. After that, pay is increased as a man shows ability up to 48c an hour. The men work on an eight-hour day, and are paid for over-time at the rate of time and a half. For example, men working nine hours get 9½ hours pay and men working 10 hours get 11 hours pay.

Men who have any skill or experience as drillers, blacksmiths, carpenters and the like are started at from 15 to 30 c per hour. Whenever a man proves he has such skill or develops it he is given piece work and paid for what he does. This always enables a man to earn more than he would on a time rate. A careful inspection of the pay that men are now receiving showed that apt men of experience are now getting from \$27 to \$30 a week as riveters; \$20 to \$22 a week as drillers; \$22 to \$33 a week as anglesmiths; \$17 to \$22 a week as yard riggers, and from \$15 to \$18 a week at other work. This does not take into account pay for overtime, which in many cases makes the earnings of the men much larger.

The housing and neighborhood con-

ditions are one of the most interesting features about the Newport News opportunity. The managers of the shipbuilding company have shown great interest in these conditions surrounding their men. Just now a real estate firm encouraged by the Shipbuilding Company is opening up a suburban residential district. This place is on the street car line with a 2½c fare for working men to the ship-yard. Twenty-two new houses have been completed in this suburb, which is known as Garden City. About 70 others are already occupied. The new houses all have electric light, gas and running water. Baths and inside toilets may be put in at small cost where wanted. The most attractive thing about these houses is that they are offered to reliable workmen at the ship-yard at very reasonable opportunities on easy terms about as follows: \$50 cash, the balance as monthly rent. The houses range in size from 4 rooms to 7 rooms and in prices from \$150 to \$1,700. Another residential section in walking distance of the ship-yard has been spoken of and planned as soon as there is demand for the houses.

One of the attractive things about these neighborhoods is that there can be no saloons, as Virginia is a dry state and that only persons of good standing can buy houses in these neighborhoods. There is a good city school at Newport News and a county school near Garden City. Also ground for a new school in Garden City has already been offered and as soon as there are enough people to make the effort they can probably get a school of their own. There are 15 Baptist churches, 3 Methodist churches and several other denominations in the city of Newport News. There is a Y. M. C. A., a ball park and a moving picture show for spare hours of pleasure. Bay Shore, a bathing beach on Chesapeake Bay, is within a short car or automobile ride.

This southern industrial center offers one of the best features of its opportunity in that the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company is seeking colored men of intelligence and character for their work of building steel ships for the U. S. Navy and private owners. Mr. H. L. Ferguson, president and general manager of the company, says "this company probably employs, under satisfactory conditions, a larger number of skilled Negro men in iron working trades than any other

company.

During the next twelve months the company is enlarging its plant and plans to increase its labor force about fifty percent. So desirous is the management to get a high grade of Negro labor that they have employed Mr. Paul G. Prayer, who will make his headquarters at Newport News, Va., and work under the general supervision of the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes in helping to develop in this southern center a community of intelligent, steady, capable Negro iron workers. Anyone interested in knowing further about this unique community should write Mr. Prayer at 2300 Madison avenue, Newport News, Va., or to Dr. George E. Haynes, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

NEW MODEL CITY AT PT. WENTWORTH JACKSON MICH PATRIOT

Open Air School Classes for Children One of the Ideas Introduced.

Details of the model town shortly to be erected at Port Wentworth, a few miles outside of Savannah, Ga., have been made public by Wm. Imbrie & Co., New York, who have financed several industrial concerns located at this point and who are responsible for the new city, says the National Builder.

Charles W. Leavitt, a New York landscape architect and civil engineer, has prepared the plans of the city and the actual work of construction will be carried forward under his direction. Mr. Leavitt has recently completed model cities at Wilmington, Del.; St. Helena, Md., near Baltimore, and at other points.

Port Wentworth City will be erected to provide convenient and comfortable homes at a nominal expense for the workmen and families of the employes of the various enterprises established at the nearby Port Wentworth terminal, which is owned by the Savannah & Atlanta Railway.

The plan of the city, which will have its own water supply, sewerage system and lighting plant, calls for a white and negro village on opposite sides of the Savannah river, with separate schools, community stores, churches, parks, and moving picture theaters. All the cottages will be of frame construction, the materials being cut on the property by the Port Wentworth Lumber company, and in the white village will be of Colonial style of three, five six and eight rooms. In the colored district there will be 250 two-room bungalows. Two modern hotels will also be erected in the main city for the accommodation of transients.

Open air school classes for the children will be one of the modern

ideas introduced at Port Wentworth City.

The care taken to provide this model city with all the modern attributes at a lower expense to employes than could be secured otherwise, is expected to go a long way toward solving the ever vital problem of adequate labor supply.

Labor, 1917

Government Control MIGRATION OF THE NEGRO STILL A SERIOUS QUESTION

5-31-17.
The migration of the Negro Northward is a very vital question. It is affecting the whole South, the Central West, and Eastern sections of our country. The industries and farms of the South are already unhampered and are in danger of being shut down. We have recognized, from the beginning, the seriousness of the whole situation. The South, and the South alone, can put a stop to this migration of labor, which means the ruin of the South. It will not be done by publishing isolated cases of the Negro's failure in the North. These accounts will not deter the Negro so long as Uncle Sam carries the mail. Nor will drastic prohibitive measures prevent the Negro's going. The Negro operated the underground railroad in the fifties and sixties and certainly he will have no trouble in getting away in this day of freedom. Let the South face the question fairly. This, a large part of the South has not done. The Negro is accustomed to threats, and the more unfair legislation is enacted the more the Negro will go.

We are glad to note, on the other hand, that a part of the Southern press is facing the question on the higher plane, and if the better counsel prevails we will see the Negro settling down to business, which will make the South more prosperous. But it will be because conditions are changed. The Chattanooga Daily Times has approached this question in a statesmanlike way and has stated clearly the only recourse which the South has to stop migration. An editorial from the Chattanooga Times is so timely and so clearly expresses the contention of the Negro that we give considerable space to the quotation.

The Chattanooga Times says:

"In the printed account of the proceedings of the Georgia Council of Defense at a meeting held in Atlanta on Tuesday appears this remarkable action: 'The Council took definite steps to prepare the State for war, the principal one, in the opinion of Council members, being the formulation of a request for Federal aid to prevent the exodus of Negro labor from Georgia.' The action raises an issue that will have to be met sooner or later, and there will be no better time for settling it than now. In the first place Negro labor

has just as much right to go where it will find remunerative wages as any other kind of labor and we know of no right conferred by the Constitution to compel any kind of laborer, white or black, to stay where he doesn't want to stay. It is true that Negro day labor is needed not only in Georgia, but in every part of the South, for the simple reason that we have very little of any sort. In fact, the Negro labor of the South has been a valuable asset hardly appreciated by the people until it began to move away. This newspaper has been saying this for a long time and in doing so has insisted that a bit more attention be given to making the Negro's lot among us more bearable and his conditions more in consonance with the humane disposition of the vast body of the Southern people. We have urged that his environments be improved and his living conditions be made more comfortable, attractive and civilizing than they are.

"The Negro has said and he has shown in the past that he prefers to live in the South if only he could get what is justly his due. He is going to other sections because of promises to better his condition. The way to hold him in the South is not to 'promise' but to 'make' his conditions better; to quit exploiting him and to give him the wage and the treatment he is entitled to. He has been indolent, in a way, but he has probably, even at that, earned the niggardly wage usually given him. It might be a good thing to try him with a wage that is paid to other laborers of his class and watch the result. It has been proven by the Water Company in digging the ditch for their Chickamauga Park main that Negroes can work and earn the full value of the pay given them. In other words, a higher wage appears to be an incentive to a majority of Negroes to do good work just as it is an incentive to others to do good work. If these Georgia defenders will look to this point; see that Negroes are paid good wages and treated right and their living conditions improved, we do not believe they would have to appeal to the Federal government, which has nothing on earth to do with the internal affairs of their State. Under the selective draft the government may send laborers to the Southern fields, but it has no inherent right to compel Negroes or anybody else to work in conditions that are not satisfactory or agreeable."

BANNER

Nashville, Tenn.

THE NEGRO EXODUS.

A writer in the New York Sun some time ago remarked that "so far as negroes leaving the South they are at liberty to go where they see fit, and I don't see why there is so much talk about it." To this the State, of Columbia S. C., laconically replied, "We concur."

The kind of talk the movement has mostly produced is of a fatuous sort. Some of the Northern commentators, for instance, following the old habit of the anti-slavery agitators, say the exodus is occasioned by the bad treatment given the negroes in the South, and some Southerners, also through force of habit, are foolish enough to retort in kind.

During the presidential campaign last year it was quite vociferously alleged that the negroes were being carried North to vote the Republican ticket. That was a fair specimen of political gossip, but the fact that the movement continues shows that it was without foundation.

There is nothing phenomenal about the movement. It has come purely and quite plainly of an economic exigency. Foreign immigration, on which the great industries of the North have depended for a labor supply, has been cut off at a time when those industries are unusually active and the demand for labor is great.

The Southern negroes didn't begin the movement North of their own initiative, nor for any reason of dissatisfaction with their present abode. Whatever restrictions they may suffer in the South now, the present generation is surely as free and unoppressed as any that preceded it. The Southern negroes are, in fact, unusually well off just now because of the high price at which last year's cotton crop was sold and there is no unrest or dissatisfaction among them. They are going North because they are being induced to do so by an offer of high wages, and those who are inducing them are utterly unmoved by any sort of sentiment. The inducers are after labor. They would import Chinamen and East India coolies if the exclusion laws would permit. Their efforts are directed towards the Southern negroes because the negroes constitute the only available supply.

When the war is over and the tide of European immigration is renewed, the negroes that have gone North will be forced into a serious competition sharper than anything they have ever known in the South and their return to this section is exceedingly probable.

There is no sort of doubt, the question is wholly undebatable, that the conditions on Southern farms is far more congenial to the negroes than what they will find in the North.

The negroes who are being carried North are wholly of the labor class—unskilled labor. They are the untutored "field hands" or river "rousters," and are wanted only for their brawn. The prospect of higher wages allures them. They are not seeking and will not find an appreciable difference in their social or political condition.

The annual conference of negroes at Tuskegee, Ala., advised the Southern negroes not to go to the North, for various reasons, one being that they are acclimated to the South, and another is that industrial competition with whites is not yet severe in the South, in which negro landlords are rapidly increasing.

That was good common sense, founded on a sane view of the conditions of the exodus, but negro laborers, those down in the berry and truck-growing region of West Tennessee, for instance, where the migration is now said to be much in evidence, don't know anything about what the Tuskegee conference advised, but they do understand a Pittsburg labor agent who offers them good wages and transportation North.

The matter is disturbing in the South because it affects the labor supply. The South is dependent on negro labor. It doesn't know any other and at present no other is available. Except for this fact the South would unquestionably benefit by negro emigration.

In the first place, it would nationalize the race problem and relieve the South of that chronic source of annoyance, and then it would result ultimately in a great increase in the percentage of white population in the South, which would be of incalculable benefit.

If anyone doesn't believe that the South would benefit by exchanging negroes for whites, let him explain why Illinois is so greatly in advance of Louisiana or Mississippi, or, to go to more primitive sources, what caused the difference between Europe and Africa.

Our Northern friends have quite often advised the South to "elevate the negro," but that process, if wholly feasible, is a matter of long time and generations and can't be done in a day with a crowbar or a jack screw.

The South would unquestionably profit by a gradual emigration of negroes. Whites would come in their places and the second generation of whites, no matter where the first generation came from, would be assimilated and become indistinguishable from the native population. That can never be true of the negroes.

But the negroes in bulk are not going to leave the South. The present movement is due entirely to temporary conditions and will cease with the re-

newal of white immigration into the North from Europe.

NO INDUSTRIAL SLAVERY FOR THE NEGRO

We note the idea advanced in several recent articles in the daily press that a ~~poorly~~ *Savannah* ~~number~~ *Press* of Negroes should come within the conscription age limit be placed on the farm instead of in the army. We ~~do not~~ *do not* see the necessity of a large production of farm products in these strenuous times, but we see no reason why Negroes should be forced to do farm labor any more than the whites. If it is necessary that the farmer be given aid in planting and harvesting his crops why send the Negro alone to his assistance? We are citizens of this country, and as loyal and anxious to see her triumph in this great war as are the whites, but we shall not allow our patriotism to run riot with our idea of justice and allow ourselves to be placed in a condition of industrial slavery by doing service all alone in the backwoods without a strenuous protest. We have ever served the stars and stripes with bravery, and thousands of us have given of our last drop of blood that she might wave victoriously and today we stand ready to keep her from defeat, but we do not feel that our duty to her is any more that of a farm hand than is the white man's. If it is necessary that a portion of those who register on June 5th be conscripted for farm duty, then let both white and black alike be selected. We do not feel that ours alone should be the lot of farm hand in this crisis but rather that we share the common service of all American citizens for the honor and glory of our country.

AWAKENING TO TRUE FACTS

We are wondering whether Agricultural Commissioner J. J. Brown gave interview with various government officials on the subject of migration and to the newspapers the full text of his possible means of checking it. At the Atlanta Board of Trade meeting to very eminent Georgia jurist differed as to the right of the government, state or federal, to pass a law keeping the Negroes as a race in the South. We know that the State is powerless to pass such an act. It would be folly for either to do so if it were legal.

The Savannah Morning News has, at last, come out squarely and said that it is necessary to "improve con-

ditions under which Negroes live in the South," as a means of keeping them here and preserving the industrial equilibrium here; and further that "whether or not the white people of the South wish to think seriously and calmly about the Negro, they are compelled to do it by economic conditions forced upon them by the greatest war the world ever saw" and that "it is necessary to pay the Negro enough for his labor and to do far more than has been done to make living conditions in his home more attractive and healthful."

In the plan of salvation, conviction and conversion go hand in hand. If the people who control the destiny and welfare of the Southland admit that they have not dealt fairly with their Negro neighbors and brethren, they have taken the first and essential step in remedying the trouble here. It is useless to divert discussion of the true issues involved in the proposition, by the non-essentials. The main causes of migration are economic and must have their solution in changed and advanced thought along that line.

Negro people still live in a condition of semi-slavery in the South—certainly economic and social slavery. The Tribune has kept up a bombardment of weekly discussions of these issues since migration began. Without expressing approval or disapproval of it, we have insisted that the remedy for checking it lay with the white people themselves, and that the clear and honest administration of simple economic and social justice and right would satisfy the thinking laborer and keep him here.

A great many good and substantial citizens among the laboring classes of Negroes have gone North, while various white leaders and newspapers have been "descanting glibly" on bad housing and bad climatic conditions at the North.

Several months ago, under the caption "The Remedy." The Tribune set out that if various cities and counties ties through their chambers of commerce and other trades bodies would deal methodically and "sensibly"—as the Morning News now points out—Negro labor of all classes, migration would cease to be a problem. The day may yet be saved, if in an

organized and positive way, the big employers of labor will face the real situation honestly and deal with it justly and reasonably.

We suggest that the Savannah Board of Trade might take the lead in a movement to adjust wage conditions to meet the economic conditions of the present.

We feel that we are face to face with a stern reality and that threat and theory are unavailing. Sober and fair-minded men, who feel the responsibility for our section, must come forward and take hold of affairs.

GEORGIA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE WANTS FARM LABORERS EXEMPTED FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

Daily Herald.
Oct. 16.—President Wilson was today urged by J. J. Brown, commissioner of agriculture for Georgia, to issue an executive order providing for the exemption of farm laborers, as a class, from military service. Brown told the President farmers were now experiencing great difficulty in securing sufficient labor to harvest their crops, and that the increased production program recommended by the Department of Agriculture would be seriously hampered if he refused to take action.

"NEGRO" FOR THE FARM

In the South—Administration tells Southern whites that Colored can be conscripted for plantation work and thus by force colored exodus be stopped.—That "corner."

(Savannah Press May 23, 1917). Atlanta, Ga., May 23, 1917.—The suggestion has been advanced that Uncle Sam could use Negroes drafted under the selective conscription act to very good advantage as farm hands, if any of them would prefer the hoe handle and the plow to the machine gun and the bayonet.

As a general proposition the Negroes have exhibited no unwillingness to fight, either here or elsewhere in the South, for whatever else may be said of his shortcomings the negro is no physical coward when it comes to a straight proposition of gunplay or knife work.

Just as Essential. But the Southern farmers have been advised on authority no less

high than Washington itself that raising food crops is just as essential right now to winning the war as fighting in the trenches, and it is a well known fact that the Southern farmer is very much handicapped in all his operations by a labor shortage.

Hence the suggestion that negroes of military age could be sent to the farms, under military orders the same as if they were sent to training camps and thereby take the places of white men who were selected, as well as solving the labor shortage problem.

JUST ITALIANS FOR THE TREAS.

Oct. 17, 1917
Soldiers, Deport Laborers Who Menace Negro Workers.

BALTIMORE, Md., July 16.—More than thirty Italian laborers who tried to chase a group of negro workmen from Camp Meade, the national army encampment at Admiralty, Md., to-day were themselves ousted by a detachment on guard there, put on board a Baltimore and Ohio train bound for this city and told that if they ever came back they would be severely dealt with.

The deportation was supervised by Major Ralph F. Proctor, U. S. A., who is in charge of building the cantonment.

The Italians, it was said, feared the negroes would work for less money.

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes WARNING.

Those of us who have noticed the developments in the settlement of the United Railways with the City, saw the real obstacle at the public hearing last Tuesday night, in the Chamber of the Board of Aldermen. The hand of the Unions showed itself in no mistaking light. One of the officials of the Union even made threats of "vengeance" if the bill is passed. 11-16-17

We see a great **danger** to the colored men who are employed by at present by the United Railways if the Unions are allowed to dictate terms of a settlement. You know what it means to your job, for you are denied membership in most of these unions. **Warning**—you cannot afford to sit quietly by and be legislated out of good jobs by allowing the heads of the Unions to control the Board of Aldermen. **Get busy.**

COOLIE AND NEGRO LABOR.

Every trade unionist and every Socialist knows that the capitalists will use the war for the purpose of undermining the labor movement, if they are permitted to do so. It is right in line with their usual tactics.

HILWAUKEE WIL LEADER
JULY 13, 1917

The interview with Frank J. Weber, business agent of the Federated Trades council, which recently appeared in The Leader, brings to the attention of our readers one of the well laid and most dangerous plans of the labor haters.

The plan is to undermine the labor movement by the importation of coolie labor.

In order to do this, it is first necessary to repeal the Chinese exclusion act.

Far reaching plans are said to have been laid in order to bring about a situation wherein this can be done. The plan is bound up with the northern movement of the negroes. The fact that many northern workingmen are going to the trenches is made an excuse for bringing the southern negroes north in order to take their places, although, as a matter of fact, there is no shortage of labor.

When this movement has proceeded a little farther, the southern planters are expected to make a loud and persistent demand for the importation of coolie labor in order to take care of the cotton crop.

And this is to provide the excuse for the repeal of the exclusion act, and thus flood both north and south with coolie labor.

As everyone knows, the coolie standard of living is so low that it would be practically an impossibility for an American workingman to live on it at all.

And God knows the American standard is low enough now, without reducing it to the coolie standard.

Should the plan of flooding the country with coolies succeed, this would give the capitalists a host of docile strike breakers who would obey every order and put up with the worst conditions without a murmur.

That is the capitalist idea of heaven.

The capitalist heaven is a place where workers never organize, never ask for an increase of pay, never ask for shorter hours, never ask for better conditions, never object to the regulations, never strike, but accept the conditions that are laid down by their employers and do everything they are told, with the utmost docility and self-abasement.

They hope to make use of the war in order to bring this capitalist millennium to pass.

And it is up to the workers to circumvent their plans.

Every union and every Socialist local and branch should bring its influence to bear upon members of congress to prevent such a catastrophe from overwhelming the workers of this country.

Don't wait for the specific bill to be introduced, but do it now. Our enemies are insidiously working up public opinion in their behalf.

We must counteract it.

SKEPTICAL OF LABOR UNIONS

Commenting upon a recent editorial in the Journal and Guide in which reference was made to the recent activities of the American Federation of Labor among colored people the New York Age says: "Any movement that promises to bring about a square deal for Negro labor in the South, or at the North for that matter, is to be welcomed. It would be well for those concerned, however, to be cautious in their dealings with the leaders of organized labor, and test well the good faith of any overtures made before surrendering any advantage already gained." The Age mentions several instances, including the Rocky Mount affair, in which Negro unionists were unfairly dealt with by white unionists. There is really nothing in the situation at Rocky Mount to encourage Negro workmen to have anything to do with the American Federation of Labor. We understand that when Negro machinists' helpers walked out for higher wages, white union men were put in their places because there was a growing sentiment on the part of the union against Negroes holding these places. We do not comprehend the ethics of a labor union that would permit one member to take such an unfair advantage of another, and agree with the Age that Negroes should exercise care and discretion in identifying themselves with any branch of the American Federation of Labor. In Virginia the transportation workers have formed an organization under a State charter, which, in our judgment is the thing that all classes of colored laborers should do.

SIGNS OF STRIKE ON RIVER FRONT FAST DISAPPEAR

NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE
PUBLISHED 15, 1917

Few Demands of Longshoremen and Screwmen Not Conceded.

The demand of the longshoremen and screwmen for an increase in the rate of their wages after the termination of the existing contract, which expires tonight, has not been conceded altogether by the stevedores and ship agents, but two parties to the contract at a conference Friday morning were found to be so close together, so far as the demands of the longshoremen are concerned, that a strike seems to be out of the question. At the conference referred to the stevedores and ship agents agreed to pay the increased wages demanded, but make objection to some of the details of the contract submitted.

The white and negro longshoremen's unions will hold a joint meeting Sunday morning at 9 o'clock to consider the objections of the ship agents, and as the important parts of their demands have been agreed to it is believed there will be an amicable agreement based on the objections of the ship agents to details of the contract submitted. The agreement concedes to the longshoremen an increase of \$1 a day, with a proportionate increase for overtime and night work. Those in authority among the longshoremen positively refused to discuss the status of the negotiations at this point, but rumor was so definite that there can be no doubt of the result stated.

The white longshoremen held a meeting Friday night to consider the proposition of the stevedores and ship agents made at the conference Friday morning. The meeting was executive, of course, but it was understood after the meeting that the committee of longshoremen in the conference reported to the meeting that the ship agents were willing to pay the scale of 50 cents an hour, 75 cents for overtime and \$1 an hour for work Sundays and holidays. The ship agents also agreed that if the men are ordered to Southport, Chalmette, or other point outside the "river front," the laborers will be allowed 50 cents for dinner, and that if ordered to report for work on a ship, and the vessel is not ready to receive for several hours, the men are to be allowed a quarter day's pay for the time lost, with double pay for a like wait at night. At present they get nothing.

The ship agents, however, protested against some of the details of the terms of the contract submitted, and it was the sentiment of the meeting that the longshoremen could afford to recede from these minor considerations. The white longshoremen will hold a joint conference with the negro union Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and the impression is that at that meeting the controversy will be definitely settled.

LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE
New Orleans, La., Sept. 28.—More than 500 union freight handlers went on strike here when the steamship companies refused to grant an increase in wages. Forty cents an hour and revision of the piecework scale were rejected by the contractors. Approximately 2,100 whites joined Race men in the walkout, which caused a tieup in shipping circles.

Negro Employees At S. P. Freight Depot Walk Out

HOUSTON TEX PRESS
AUGUST 14, 1917

NEGRO TEAMSTERS

SAID TO BE PIVOT OF OTHER UNIONS

NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE
SEPTEMBER 8, 1917

Dock and Cotton Council Said to Be Back of Load- ers' Demands.

There were no changes in the labor situation on the river front Friday.

The teamsters' and loaders' organization of the Dock and Cotton Council is the pivot around which will revolve the activities that go to settle the new scales of the longshoremen and screwmen. This organization of negroes occupies a commanding position along the river front just now, for reasons which were clearly defined by a man who formerly worked as a cotton yard man, and who had much to do with the arrangement of scales some years ago, but who is now in an entirely different line of business.

This man said that while he has not attended any recent meetings of the Dock and Cotton Council, certain things were plain to his mind, one of which was that the council had passed upon the scale of the teamsters before it was submitted. While he was not present when this was done, he said, he knew it had been done, for that was the invariable rule of the organization. This being the case, the council was committed to that scale, and must support it with its full force. If an attempt is made to replace the striking negroes with others, the cotton delivered at the wharf would lie there, he said, for neither the longshoremen nor the screwmen would touch it. This was not only a principle of the council, but one also to which the workers of the presses were committed, and the presses could not afford to let non-union men take cotton from the presses. The agreement they had signed required that the cotton should be handled from start to finish by union men connected with the organization with which the contract was made.

"But this only applies during the term of the existing contracts, which expire Saturday, September 15," the reporter asked.

"Ah," said the excotton yardman, "that opinion may be generally held, but you will find that Mr. Clark, president of the Cotton Exchange, knows better. September 1 a new contract was signed with the cotton yardmen, and this clause of the old contract was inserted in the new. The press owners are committed in writing and by solemn compact to this contract, and my own opinion is they will abide by it. Hence the negroes who are on strike occupy the key position, and my opinion is that the whole matter will stand or fall with them."

The former cotton yardman said there had been much said about the unreasonableness of the demands of the longshoremen and screwmen, who were to enter into another contract September 15, but the record showed their demands were not unreasonable. Some years ago, he said, when he was handling cotton as a laborer, seventy-five bales was the day's work for a gang of screwmen, who were paid \$31 per day for the gang—\$6 for four men and \$7 for the fifth, the rate now demanded. At that time freight on cotton to Liverpool was 33 cents a hundred or \$1.90 a bale, and the cost of stowing a bale was 41 cents. At the present time freight rates have gone up to \$6.50 a hundred or \$32.50 a bale, and the same gang is required to put away 180 bales a day, and it gets for the work \$26 per gang, or 15 cents a bale. In other words, while freight rates have advanced more than 1600 per cent, the cost of stowing has been reduced more than 63 per cent.

OPEN ALL THE LABOR UNIONS TO COLORED

National Labor Organ Sees So- lution of Labor Troubles

In Such Action

WILL AVOID RACE FRICTION

Admits That Many of the Unions Have Discriminated Against Negro Workers.

Chicago, Ill.—"Let us open all unions to the Negro," says the Chicago Labor News, in commenting on a report of the East St. Louis race riots in which discrimination of unions against the Negro was criticized. The labor paper admits that "many of the unions have discriminated shamefully against the Negro." It adds, "And we condemn them heartily for so doing."

The News continues, "It is ridiculous to say that the I. W. W. is the only labor organization that welcomes the Negro. In the United Mine Workers alone, at the present time, there are more Negroes than the I. W. W. has had all told in its ranks since it was founded. And this takes no account of the thousands of Negroes in scores of other trade unions. The Asphalt Pavers Union of Chicago, one of the best in the city, is composed entirely of Negroes. So is local No. 208 of the musicians. And of the Chicago Flat Janitors Union, which ranks high among the most powerful and militant

organizations in this country, fully 25 percent of the 7,000 members are colored. Various other similar examples could be cited."

ORGANIZED LABOR

NOT FRIENDLY?

The Journal's Guide

Race Workers Advised To Form Their Own Organizations For

Better Conditions

7/28/17

Birmingham, Ala.—The fact that union leaders in Birmingham were moving heaven and earth to organize the Negro workers in the steel and iron and coal mines in this district while they were counseling the white laborers to murder Negro laborers in other sections of the country led Dr. A. C. Williams during his sermon Sunday at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to advise strongly against affiliation with the labor unions. "There is nothing for the Negro in white labor unions," said Dr. Williams. Continuing, he said:

"In its province the white labor union is inimical to the Negro laborer. We have our problems which we must work out for ourselves and by ourselves. If the Negro laborer must organize, let him organize himself, and then not to antagonize capital, but to work out his own peculiar problems, to promote efficiency, and to secure more benefits for himself and his family through co-operation and sympathy of the employer.

"The Negro will never gain anything through the white labor union. He will soon find that in them he can go so far and no further. If the Negro must organize, let the organization be purely a Negro one, officered by Negroes and working only to promote the Negro's efficiency and welfare. Every Negro endeavor should be centralized and the time will come when it will be, but it must be through a leadership that in one community stands the Negro and not through a courts him and in another counsels his murder. The Negro will never accomplish much trying to find leadership that he neither loves nor respects, and in which he has no confidence. Under the nature of things there is nothing in common between the Negro laborer and the white Union leaders."

A GREAT PROBLEM TO BUILDING TRADES IS THE NEGRO INFLUX

CINCINNATI O TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 5, 1917

Acting Mayor Louis J. Dauner delivered the address of welcome to 100 delegates who are attending the annual convention of the Ohio State Building Trades Council, at the opening session held at Rattermann Hall, Twelfth and Walnut Streets, Thursday morning.

Philip Fisher, President of the local Building Trades Council, opened the convention and introduced Thomas Joyce, Vice President of the State Council, who will preside at the business sessions. Henry Ott delivered an address on behalf of the General Committee of the Ohio State Federation of Labor convention to be held here next week.

Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Mugavin of the Ohio State Building Trades Council recommended in his report "that a movement be started at once to obtain an amendment to the workmen's compensation act to include all workmen in the State in its operation." Under the present law employers of a small number of workmen are exempted.

He stated that the Building Trades Council was facing a great problem that had developed from the influx of negroes from the South and urged that this matter be thoroly discussed during the convention, so that the incoming Secretary-Treasurer will be well posted as to the views of the council, and that the convention pass a resolution asking the Ohio State Federation of Labor to co-operate with the council in having a bill introduced covering the State inspection of ropes and scaffolding in Ohio, the same to be under the provision of the workmen's compensation act.

The following committees were appointed by the Chairman:

Committee on Resolutions, Philip Fisher, C. W. Jacques, Thomas Vigney, Roy Morgan and H. H. Cutler; Constitution and Laws, M. J. Beery, Henry Engel, F. W. Bacon, William W. Finlay and Harry Dorsey; Appeals and Grievances, Fred D. Miller, D. P. Rowland, J. W. Hart, Harvey Hill and L. Fulton; Finance, Charles S. Smith, Joseph A. Cullen, Aden E. Smith, T. E. Hamilton and Joseph Humphreys; Press and Publicity, O. J. Grubb, Walter Grews and J. M. Clark; Rules of Order, L. J. Bigler, L. W. S. Ashley and G. H. Shaw.

Assistant Secretary, Philip Gasdorf; Sergeant at Arms, James McHale and Messenger, A. G. Burgess.

The convention adjourned at noon. In the afternoon the delegates went to see the ball game at Redland Field. In the evening they attended the performance at the Olympic Theater.

Business sessions will be held Friday morning and afternoon. A number of delegates will attend the Ohio State of Plasterers and Cement beginning Friday. This continues several days.

Seventy-five negroes employed at the S. P. freight depot, loading and unloading cars, went on a strike Tuesday morning. They demanded an increase of 25 cents per day in their pay. They had been receiving \$1.75 and \$2 per day, and asked \$2 and \$2.25.

A committee of five took the demands up with T. C. Worthington, one of the railroad officials. There was no disorder attending the strike, tho there had been some trouble previously over the action of the railroad in putting a negro to work as a car checker.

Twelve white car checkers work at the depot. One was sick Tuesday morning and a negro, Johnny Smith, took his place. The other 11 white car checkers threatened to quit, and the negro's services were dispensed with.

Seeing the white car checkers gain their point inspired the negroes with the idea they could win a raise in pay. The walkout followed.

IRON MOULDERS UNION

TO TAKE IN NEGROES

The International Iron Moulders' Union has started a movement to eliminate trouble between white and Negro labor in its trade. In a call issued Monday urging all Negroes to organize, the union speaks of the reluctance which Booker T. Washington always had toward introducing labor organizations among the members of his race.

"Since Mr. Washington's death," it says, "no leading representative of the Negro race has said or done anything which has come to our attention which would in any way encourage the Negro in industry to join the trade union of his craft. It was for this reason that the moulders' delegation at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor metal trades department introduced the measure which instructed the officers of the department to correspond with recognized leaders of the Negro race and convey to them the desire of the American trade union movement to bring about trade union organization among Negroes."

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes

A Suggestion Of Force And Intimidation Of Workers

POLICE ASKED TO TREAT MEN AND WOMEN WHO INSIST UPON RECEIVING LIVING WAGES AS "SLACKERS"

AND "LOAFERS"

Norfolk is experiencing an unusual situation in labor circles, the domestic servants, including cooks, maids, waitresses, laundresses, etc., having decided jointly to ask for a uniform minimum wage of \$1 per day, with some modifications in working time. They declare that a working woman cannot exist decently upon less than they are asking for their labor.

As usual Norfolk housewives and other employers are becoming excited over the situation, if we are to believe what is being printed in the daily papers, and are doing just the thing that will not only ward any adjustment of matters with their employees, but will do to them their future services and good will in a large majority of cases.

They have ordered the police department turned loose upon the working women and their striking husbands and brothers, the oyster shuckers.

The following suggestion of force and intimidation appeared in Thursday morning's Virginian-Pilot:

Local Police Busy

C. G. Kizer, chief of the Norfolk police department, is also beginning to take a hand in the labor situation. He has detailed a special squad of plainclothes men for this particular duty. The squad is instructed, too, to prevent "loafing" among the colored men and women. All industrial "slackers" reported by them will find themselves in the position of defendants before the police justice.

The above statement was inspired by somebody—evidently the employers affected by the labor unrest. In justice to them, however, it is only fair to say that it may have originated in the fertile mind of the reporter who wrote the story of which it was a part.

At any rate it is a bad suggestion. The men and women who are at present asking for a living wage in Norfolk are neither slackers, loafers or law-breakers. They are working people affected by the increase in the cost of living just like thousands of white men who are striking all over the country are affected.

Why the activity on the part of the police? The strikers are law-abiding and have not broken the law. They are not trying to obtain their demands by force or violence.

When the oyster shuckers quit shucking oysters they went to work loading ships for more money than they were receiving opening oysters.

The women will find other work to do if they cannot reach an agreement with their present employers.

They cannot be made to work for less than living wage, even if it were true that Norfolk's police department could be induced with no law for such action to threaten and intimidate them.

Major Kizer has been known as a friend to laboring people. We believe that he will enforce the law impartially but that he will not go beyond that and persecute defenseless men and women who ask for simple justice.

The police department was not sent out to round up and arrest as slackers and loafers the three thousand white men who quit work in the navy yard because an increase in pay was denied them.

No government sleuths and legal sharps were sent down to pry into the charter provisions of the unions to which the men belonged.

The case of the women tobacco stemmers and domestics and the oyster shuckers is fundamentally the same as the case of the navy yard mechanics, except that the former are merely holding up the production of a lot of fine luxuries while the later were holding up important work upon which the winning of the war depended.

The women are asking for BREAD, why give them STONE?

THE PLASTERERS' STRIKE

The demand for more pay on the part of the Negro plasterers of the city, pay commensurate with the character and quality of the work they do, with the ever increasing cost of living, met with success as it deserved to. White men, who, upon the average, do less work per day, than their fellow Negro laborers, were getting 50 cents per day more, and it would have been short-sighted and unmanly for these Negro men not to deal with this matter.

They did not "strike." Through their representative, they took up the matter, intelligently and properly, with the proper authority, and their demands were met.

The case illustrates a very important principle in human life, but it teaches a larger lesson in the struggle of a disunited and suspecting people. It teaches that intelligent, organized effort, based upon right, will usually reap its reward; that one's case, properly and effectively presented, will command its due consideration; and that industrial competition cannot long be stayed and defeated by color prejudice.

We, of all peoples, need organization; we have suffered through lack of co-operation of efforts and coordination of interests; we have failed because our case has been poorly presented or misrepresented.

It is gratifying that we seem to be overcoming these too apparent weaknesses.

BARBER'S UNION INVITES NEGROES

Coins Argues 10/5/17

At a mass meeting held at 2228 Olive St. last Monday night, to which all the Colored barbers of the city were invited, an effort was made to unionize the Colored barbers. F. A. Heller, secretary of No. 102, in his opening remarks, said:

"The object of this meeting is to give the Colored barber the opportunity to join our organization and thereby better his condition; also to have a uniform price among all the Colored shops. This is probably the first chance that the Colored barber has had to assemble in a mass meeting, and you are earnestly requested to be present and voice your sentiments.

"You realize that in the last two years everything has gone up in the way of food and clothing and there has also been an advance in the price of barber supplies.

"This is the opportune time for organization; Barbers' Local No. 102 has instructed me to get the Colored barbers into our organization, and when once a member you have the same rights and privileges as the white barbers.

"I have engaged several speakers, Colored and white, and I can assure you that you will receive the support of all the Colored union men of all crafts in this city, of which there are some 3,000."

Peter Lavine also spoke. The meeting was opened and closed with prayer by Clarence Covington.

DOCK WORKERS' STRIKE SPREADS

AMERICAN

NOVEMBER 20, 1917

Longshoremen Threaten to Call Out 50,000 Ship Loaders in This City and Hoboken.

Threats to call out 50,000 ship loaders in New York and Hoboken and tie up the port were made yesterday by striking longshoremen.

More than 1,000 men joined the strikers. Discontent with the attitude of the International Mercantile Marine was expressed at meetings of the men who remained at work.

A proposition to arbitrate the difference between the longshoremen's union and the White Star Line, taken in union headquarters, No. 164 Eleventh avenue, was defeated yesterday afternoon by a vote of 153 to 141.

The strike spread last night to the piers of the Anchor Line, Bermuda, Panama and Royal Mail Company. None of these lines has any disagreement with the union.

An official of the Cunard Line declared the men quit work at noon on the Cunard piers without presenting any demands or stating grievances.

Two hundred men on the Holland-American Line pier in Hoboken joined the sympathetic strike. Officials of the company stated the only grievance expressed by the men was that they had been denied the privilege of going out for beer at noon.

The prospect of the Federal Government taking over the piers of the big steamship companies, as a war measure, was discussed by the strikers and officials of the companies. The striking longshoremen expressed a willingness to work for the Government.

From 300 to 400 negroes employed by the Ward Line on piers 13 and 14, East River, went out when their demands for increased pay were refused.

John F. Riley, business agent of the local longshoremen's union, declared the officials of the organization had tried to keep the men at work to prevent embarrassment to the Government. The men, he said, are determined to go out and remain out until Frank Labardo, a foreman employed by the White Star Line, is discharged. The strike began as a protest against the alleged harsh methods of Labardo.

Officials of the White Star Line stated the men were receiving excellent wages. They declared they are making every effort to load ships without the strikers.

New Orleans, Sept. 19.—Shipping at this port was virtually tied up this afternoon when approximately 2,000 longshoremen, both whites and negroes, struck after the employing stevedores refused to sign a new contract at increased wages for a term of five years.

THE CASE OF THE WOMEN STRIKERS

For three weeks three hundred colored women have conducted a strike which has been so effective that it closed entirely the operations of one of Norfolk's largest industries, the American Cigar Company's local stemmery. The women quit work because, as they affirm, they were not earning a living wage, and that certain overhead conditions in the plant were not satisfactory. At the time of our going to press officials of the company had agreed to meet practically all of the demands of the women with two exceptions: the granting of a wage of \$1.25 a day to women floor laborers and the recognition of the union to which the women belong.

The factory management questions the justice of the wage demand. They say that \$1.25 per day is an excessive wage for an unskilled working woman. They have been paid heretofore an average of 70 cents per day, for a ten hour day, 55 hours a week for house rent, food, fuel, clothing, insurance, church dues, lodge dues and incidentals. The items will run about as follows:

In view of the present living conditions The Journal and Guide is of the opinion that there are justice and reason in the demand of the women. We do not believe that under present conditions any adult laborer, man or woman, can subsist upon much less than the factory women are asking. The average woman who works in the factory of the American Cigar Company has to provide every week for house rent, for house rent, food, fuel, clothing, insurance, Church dues, lodge dues and incidentals. The items will run about as follows:

House rent.....	\$1.00
Fuel.....	.75
Food.....	3.00
Clothing.....	1.00
Insurance.....	.25
Church dues.....	.25
Lodge dues.....	.25
Incidentals.....	.25
	\$7.25

At \$1.25 a day the women would earn \$6.87 a week, as the working time at the factory is 51 1/2 days.

Every item mentioned above is absolutely essential to the existence of a working woman. Insurance, church dues and lodge dues are just as essential as bread and meat. Were it not for these three things every working woman of the tobacco factory element that got sick would most likely die from lack of attention and be buried as a pauper.

Even if a woman is married or has other working members in her family her prorata of house

rent cannot fall below \$1.00 per week, nor fuel allowance less than 75c with slab wood selling at \$8 per cord and coal at \$9.50 per ton. It sounds almost ridiculous to estimate the cost of clothing a woman at the present time at \$1.00 per week. It would take a five weeks' allowance to buy one pair of shoes that would be at all servicable. And with white pork selling at 30c a pound, flour at 10c, meal at 7c, peas 30c a quart, beans 40c a quart and pork steak 45c a pound a woman that undertook to live on less than \$3 worth of provisions a week would not be able to work at all. So in view of these conditions it appears to us that there are both justice and reason in the demands that the striking tobacco stemmers are making for a living wage.

If this labor is so non-productive that it will not warrant a living wage the factory should so reorganize its operations as to eliminate such non-productive time.

CLEVELAND O PLAIN DEALER DECEMBER 6, 1917

The Negro's Brighter Outlook.

One of the most notable actions taken by the American Federation of Labor at its Buffalo meeting has practically gone unnoticed. We refer to its decision to organize the negro workingmen, notably in the south. By this vote it struck down race prejudice in union labor circles, and, it is to be hoped, put an end to the bitter antagonism which has prevailed among organized workingmen against the colored American. We are, of course, not so blind as to believe that this action was due to any purely altruistic motive. It has been forced by the growing power of the negro workingman, his rise in the social and industrial scale and his recent migration in such large numbers to the north. At East St. Louis there is pretty convincing evidence that union labor engineered or instigated the horrible riots which equaled some of the worst German crimes in Belgium, as by the deliberate burning of negro infants and the shooting of absolutely innocent men, women and children. At Buffalo there was, fortunately for the good name of labor, a realization that a different policy must prevail.

Curiously enough, the white southern delegates were reported as favoring this move. Perhaps this is wholly due to the fear of unorganized competition and the use of negroes as strike breakers. Whatever the motive, it is such a long step forward towards recognizing the industrial equality of the negro as to cause much rejoicing among the colored people. North and south the color line has rigidly been drawn against them by the very men who preached the equality and solidarity of labor. Here and there in the north negroes have been admitted to unions, but in the main the color line has been as rigidly drawn against them as on the railroads of the south. It was an untenable position for the Federation of Labor and enlightened (or unenlightened) self-interest has now led the way to a reversal of its historic and unfair position.—New York Evening Post.

WHAT WAS MEANT.

The Journal of Labor, spokesman for the Atlanta Federation of Trades and allied unions, in its issue of October 12, criticises The Constitution's position as expressed in a recent editorial captioned, "Strikers and Deserters," though it expresses the hope that it has misunderstood, or misconstrued, our comment.

The Constitution in the editorial in question said that—

This is no time for the worker to throw down his tools, whatever his "grievance" might be; and there should be no room in America for the able-bodied man without employment. He should, by some means, be made to work while others are fighting.

The Journal of Labor is right—it has misunderstood The Constitution, which had reference, along with the criticism of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and other recognized and esteemed leaders of trades unionism in the United States, to the unpatriotic, obstructionary, revolutionary I. W. W.

These men are not laborers, but agitators; not builders, but wreckers, whose behavior, work and precept constitute a menace to every honest laborer and every small home-owner in the country—indeed, were they numerous enough, to the very life of the American republic itself!

In various parts of the country since the war began members of this insidious organization have procured exemption from military service on grounds of employment in essential industries, only later on to throw

down their tools, quit work and busy themselves in the business of hampering industry and the government's military operations.

The Constitution held, and it here reiterates, that such a slacker is an enemy to his country, and that "he should, by some means, be made to work" while others are fighting, or else be compelled himself to fight in uniform!

This position, it is safe to presume, is shared by every reputable organ of trades unionism, and every spokesman and every leader of legitimate organized labor in America—including Mr. Gompers and his fellow labor champions, who have proven themselves to be loyal, useful and unselfish patriots in this time of war and national stress.

BOSTON UNION TAKES

THE NEGRO WAITERS

(Special to The New York Age)
BOSTON, Mass.—For the first time in the history of Boston colored waiters are to be admitted to the union. The decision to invite colored waiters to become members was reached last week at a special meeting of the Waiters' Union, Local 34.

The four hundred Negro waiters employed at the Hayward, Woodstock, Langham and Healey's cafes, and the Copley Square and Colonial Hotel have been asked to become union members.

The white waiters have just won a strike here, compelling the eating places to pay them \$35 monthly and give them one day in seven off. The wage committee of the union has promised to take steps to obtain the same terms for the colored men.

NON-STRIKE LABOR?

The waiters of the Copley Square Hotel in Boston went on a strike last week following the invitation of their white union brethren to aid them in their fight for better working conditions. The men demanded an increase from \$6 to \$8 per week and one day off. Checkers and bellboys were called on to serve guests, who were left in the dining room, when the waiters walked out. Some of the strikers have been in the employ of the hotel management for a quarter of a century, yet walked out when the call came. There is every indication that the strikers will win, and justly they ought to win. The high cost of living affects them just as it does every other worker.

At the same time a number of workmen of the shops of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, estimated at 500, walked out at the Rocky Mount, N. C. shops, when the six and one half per cent increase was given to all laborers except Negroes.

In Norfolk, Va., according to the Journal and Guide, 300 colored women working for the American Tobacco Company as stemmers, went on a strike for increased wages and shorter hours.

In each of these three cases the workers have been organized into unions and pledged themselves to stick together. It appears that the capitalists, who have been employing colored workers for exploitation, are due a surprise. They believed that the white unions would not receive colored people, and so colored workers would be unable to organize and strike when they wanted better conditions. The capitalists invoked the principle that "non-strike labor is non-organized labor," and felt perfectly safe in employing colored workers at low wages.

Colored labor has fooled these employers by organizing itself into local unions when the larger bodies did not take them in. A few more instances of the above will convince grasping capitalists colored labor will strike as quickly and determinedly as any other.

The Association of Colored Engineers and Electricians have organized in Philadelphia with the following officers: George H. Conkey, president; E. D. Kennedy, vice-president; Charles Churchill, secretary; William J. Fisher, assistant secretary; Archibald G. Lowe, treasurer; Daniel Reed, sergeant-at-arms; Samuel Barnes, field secretary.

Labor - 1917

Unions and Strikes

DEADLOCK HOLDS IN STRIKE OF RIVER-FRONT LABORERS

NEW ORLEANS LA ITEM
SEPTEMBER 8, 1917
Union
Workers Would Precipitate
General Walk-Out

With striking negro teamsters and loaders out one week Saturday, and subsequent demands of the longshoremen and screwmen for wage increase, the labor situation along the river front remains the same. No effort has been made by draymen to fill the places vacated by the striking negroes, and as there is little shipping at present of commodities that these strikers handle, little damage is being done the port.

Both sides continue to mark time. Negro teamsters and loaders stand firm in their demands for \$4 a day and payment on quarter-day, half-day, three-quarter-day and full day settlement. Draymen hold out for their compromise scale of \$3.20 a day, which is 40 cents more than the old scale of \$2.80.

Longshoremen and screwmen ask an approximate increase of \$1 a day, arguing that a gang has to do more work than formerly and pleading the high cost of living. Their contracts with the stevedores expire September 15. Whether they strike at that time depends on how the stevedores meet their demands, it is said.

Practically all interests employing labor on the river front have agreed that, because of the high cost of living, the laborers are entitled to some increase. Efforts are being made to grant increases and at the same time arrive at some equitable distribution of the burden on the shipping interests.

The demand of an increase from \$2.80 to \$4 a day by the teamsters and loaders has been branded as excessive. Likewise, some of the stevedores claim the demands of the longshoremen and screwmen are too heavy. Others are willing to meet these demands.

Dissension also exists in the negro unions. It is known that some of the union leaders are asking the negroes to accept the \$3.20 a day basis, which it is said, is more than the negroes ever have been paid.

Employment of non-union labor would precipitate a general strike, as all of the allied unions on the river front are pledged to co-operate only with union labor, this being provided in all contracts.

When a settlement will be reached remains problematical.

CINCINNATI POST
OCTOBER 5, 1917

NEGRO PROBLEM UP. That the workmen's compensation act should be amended to include all employees was the suggestion of Thomas Mugavin, secretary and treasurer of the Ohio State Building Trades Council, at session of council at Reitermann's Hall; labor problem arising from influx of negroes will be considered later.

WORKING GIRLS WITH NEWPORT NOTIONS.

Last week in Washington, three white girls in the bureau of engraving and printing went on strike because colored girls were put to work beside them at a power press. The white girls are reported to have taken their case up with Miss Jeannette Rankin, the Congresswoman from Montana. In turn, Miss Rankin is reported as saying to them that it was a problem for their newly formed union.

It is also further reported that in Typographical Temple was held a meeting at which the speakers indicated that the only way to overcome the race problem in the bureau of engraving and printing was for the white women to perfect their union immediately and then oppose the employment of colored women. Also the suggestion was made that efforts be taken to have colored women denied the privilege of civil service examinations.

In the first place we want to ask, where do these white women who are working in the bureau of engraving and printing think they are? Have they a sort of hazy notion that they are moving around in some exclusive society salon at Newport or Tuxedo? Are they unable to realize that they are simply poor devils who have to work for a living?

In their homes, they can follow Newport social regulations of the most exclusive kind. There, although they may not be able to associate with whom they would like, they can refuse to associate with whom they do not like. But in the place where they have to toil for their bread, they ought to see the absurdity of trying to carry any such distinctions. A society dame is well within her social rights in refusing to entertain or associate with another woman who is a perfect lady but whose father made his money in trade; such a thing frequently happens. But it is to laugh to see one poor working girl refusing to toil by the side of another poor working girl whose face is darker.

I would say to these striking white girls that nature or fate made a great mistake. They should either not have any such ideas in their heads, or they should not be compelled to work for a living. But since they are in the class of poor devils that have to work for a living, I would suggest that they drop their high society hallucinations or continue to give an imitation of them only in their homes. In fact, if they only knew it, they can live a far more interesting, more useful, more human life as members of the great class of poor devils who have to work for a living than they could as members of the class whose chief business in life is picking out the people whom they consider fashionable enough for their associates.

No doubt, it would give these striking white girls a jolt to know that the colored girls working beside them might not care to carry relations outside of the bureau of engraving and printing, and, in some instances, might positively object to carrying them into their homes.

But there is a more serious side to this question than the high

society hallucinations of these girls. Indications are given that an effort will be made to form a union among the white employees that will not only prevent colored girls from being employed at the bureau of engraving and printing, but which will ultimately succeed in having the privilege of civil service examinations denied to colored women.

Let us not start out by saying that it can't be done. Anything against the Negro can be done under this administration. Let us remember, too, that it was in the bureau of engraving and printing that the Southern and unAmerican idea of segregation in the public departments at Washington was started.

I was in Washington a few days ago and talked with senators on some matters that vitally concern the race. Several senators said that it was useless to try to have any action taken by the present powers in control at Washington for the direct benefit of the Negro. Already, we are denied fair play under the civil service, and it wouldn't strain the conscience of this Southern regime to deny Negroes the right to take the examinations for any position other than that of laborer.

All of which brings us to this: the Negro has arrived at the point of being a national nonentity. **There is not a single citizenship right that he can demand. He must beg for everything he gets.** Here we are, twelve millions of us, standing hat in hand, begging to be treated as citizens; **while three million Jews, who also have bitter prejudice to contend with, demand what they want, and get it.**

Why is this the condition? It is because we have failed to organize for the protection of our manhood and citizenship rights. We have successfully organized for other purposes, but for these fundamentals on which everything else must rest, we have failed to weld into one great force all our immense powers. Our churches and our fraternal societies have done and are doing a tremendous work, but we need a nation-wide organization that will embrace all churches and all orders, an organization whose sole aim is the securing and maintaining of the Negro's manhood and citizenship rights.

Outside of our churches and fraternal orders, we have only two organizations of nation-wide scope, The National Negro Business League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Business League stands for the economic development of the race. It has passed the experimental stage. It would be folly to start another organization of its kind. The whole race should unite in making it the greatest business congress possible. The League would then become a power for the economic development of the race that cannot be estimated.

The Advancement Association forms the necessary complement. It has for its aim the rights of the Negro as a man and a citizen. The Association, though not so old as the League, has also passed the experimental stage. It now has ninety-one branches and nearly

ten thousand members. So there is no wisdom in starting other organizations like it; for the strength of such an organization can come only from having a large number of units that can co-operate with each other and all together. But considering the civil and political conditions of the Negro in this country, the Association ought to have five thousand branches and five hundred thousand members.

Now do you suppose if the colored people of the United States were bound together in such an organization as that that they would need to beg for their rights? Not at all. They could demand their rights if they had an organization of one thousand units and one hundred thousand members bound together with the same great purposes in mind.

Without some such organization, we shall continue for a long time to be a national nonentity and to beg for our rights.

NEGRO ALLIANCE BEGINS GREAT WORK

First Attempt on a Big Scale to Break the System of Repression of Negro Manhood and Endeavor—One Million Members by February 1, 1918.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Oct. 24.—After many months of careful planning, the Negro American Alliance has begun its great campaign to organize every man, woman and child of Negro birth in the United States into one great federation. Every Negro in America realizes the necessity of such an organization, especially at this crucial time in the race's history. So vast is this work that it took many months of painstaking endeavor before the plans were finally perfected.

The Men Who Are Doing the Work.
The alliance was founded and is being pushed to success by men of broad vision and rare ability who have the time to devote to the work. The president is James A. Lightfoot, a practicing attorney of Atlantic City, and a member of the New Jersey Bar. For years Mr. Lightfoot was editor and publisher of the Atlantic Advocate. His wide journalistic and legal experience eminently fit him to direct such an organization. He is the real founder of the Negro American Alliance.

Mr. Floyd Delos Francis, a writer, publicist and close student of world events, is the national secretary general. Mr. Francis brings ripe journalistic experience to the service of the organization.

The leading editorial article in the Philadelphia Public Ledger of August 3d, entitled "Russia's Weakness in War Like Weakness of Our South," attracted the attention of the entire country.

Nonpartisan and Nonsectarian.

The Alliance has no political affiliations and no political intentions. It will never ally itself with any of the great political parties. To do so would seriously hamper its work. It is non-sectarian. All denominations are urged to give their support as the Alliance has no creed save the broad creed of equal opportunity for the Negro with other races and nationalities. It will be a pleasure to enroll the man who is

a member of no church at all. The only qualification is that he must be a Negro.

An Incorporated Institution.
In order that responsibility might rest somewhere and give the Alliance legal standing and protection it is incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey and is a chartered institution of that state. This not only affords it protection, but gives it permanency and differentiates it and its work from those vague "movements" that usually begin and end in the mind of some irresponsible dreamer.

No Figureheads.
The Negro American Alliance is conspicuous for the absence of "imposing" and "prominent" names. The men at the head of the Alliance are men to work for the Alliance and not merely decorate stationery with names and titles. No great "advisory board" consisting of men located in cities thousands of miles apart is a feature of the Alliance. The men directing the Alliance meet every day and plan carefully the routine work weeks in advance.

No "White Friends."
The Negro American Alliance has no "white friends." Furthermore, it does not wish any, for the simple reason that there are no such beings. No white man will ever be connected with it in any way. Not a single penny will ever be accepted as a donation from any member of the white race. To accept donations would impose obligations and seriously impair work of the Alliance.

Its Real Object.
The real object of the Alliance is to break the system of repression exercised against Negroes in this country. Negroes have got to do this themselves. No member of the Caucasian race will ever do this for them. The Alliance will advertise the Negro to the country and the world in his true light and not as his detractors picture him to be. It intends to send a force of young Negroes abroad when the war is over

to grow up with the new nations and thus create sentiment in the Negro's favor with other nations. These plans are all explained in a little booklet entitled: **THE NEGRO AMERICAN ALLIANCE: ITS PRINCIPLES, PURPOSES AND AIMS.** This booklet should be read by every Negro. It will be mailed anywhere on receipt of ten cents stamps. All communications should be addressed to Floyd Delos Francis, National Secretary General, Negro American Alliance, Suite 24, Schwartz-Riddle Bldg., Atlantic City, N. J.

One Million Members by February.

The great drive for members has begun. The Alliance plans to have a million members enrolled by February 1st, 1918. Each member will be given a card properly filled out and a duplicate card will be kept on file in the offices of the Alliance.

Will Increase Circulation of Negro Papers.

The Alliance will endeavor to have every family in the country subscribe for at least two Negro newspapers. It believes that the Negro newspaper will be one of the greatest factors in breaking the system of repression exercised against Negroes in this country and every Negro will be urged to subscribe for at least two.

RACE LABOR ORGANIZER

MISTREATED BY POLICE

712117

Jacksonville, Fla., July 29.—Jerry Jones, a highly intelligent man of modest disposition and neat appearance, was hauled to jail like a common felon charged with being a vagrant and confined to a prison cell for three hours without cause. Mr. Jones is prominently known as one of the few members of the Race to hold the distinction of being chief organizer of one of the branches of the American Federation of Labor. He is the official traveling organizer of the International Order of Longshoremen. This organization is a bona fide branch of the American Federation of Labor and Mr. Jones' business in Jacksonville was to assist Local Organizer John Oakes in promoting the affairs of the local councils among our people.

It seems that Organizer Oakes has been very successful in getting our Race men organized into unions. He has labored so effectively that the big concerns employing laborers here have become uneasy about their keeping the usual check upon the laboring class and rumor has it that Mr. Jones was the victim of a tool of one of these big concerns in their effort to discourage the unionizing of Race laborers.

Mr. Jones had an important engagement with Organizer Oakes last Friday evening. They were to attend a meeting of one of the locals with a view to adjusting certain matters then pending.

Jones Fails to Show

After waiting for some time the men at the hall became uneasy for the welfare of Mr. Jones and, suspecting foul play, the men decided to have Organizer Oakes go out and investigate. In a short while Mr. Oakes located his chief at police headquarters, charged with being a vagrant. He was so thoroughly shocked and mortified at this disgusting intelligence that he immediately called upon the white union council heads, who fortunately were in session, and the coun-

cil, by unanimous vote, ordered the treasurer to take his check book and accompany a delegation of prominent white union men to police headquarters with instructions to sign Mr. Jones' bond, no matter what the amount might be. When the police captain realized his mistake he immediately attempted to quiet the affair by telling Mr. Jones he would be released and it would be all right and the matter would be dropped. This did not satisfy the gentlemen and they demanded that Mr. Jones provide a bond and have a hearing before the judge. Having no other recourse, the officer ordered Mr. Jones' bond be fixed, and in a last effort towards a compromise he instructed the clerk to make the amount \$25 instead of \$100 as previously requested.

Judge Censures Police

Upon appearing before the judge Mr. Jones stated his case very plainly. The judge asked Mr. Jones if he had his credentials and showed them to the police officer when arrested. Mr. Jones replied that the officer refused to look at his credentials, whereupon the judge in a satirical tone inquired of the officer: "What was it about this man that made you think he was a vagrant?" The officer, much embarrassed, spluttered out a general statement, saying: "Well, Judge, he was all dressed up and walking around, doing nothing," etc. The case was dismissed.

The matter is not over with, according to Mr. Jones' statement. The A. F. of L. will not stand for one of its representatives being mistreated while in the peaceful discharge of his duty.

This is a sample of Race conditions existing here and elsewhere in the South. Mr. Jones is not only a union man, but an organizer of recognized ability and serving the union, but he is a Negro. (East St. Louis papers please conv.)

NEGRO WORKERS ARE ORGANIZING

V V C CALL
AUGUST 9, 1917

FIRST AMERICAN UNION OF COLORED TOILERS ESTABLISHES SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The first step has been taken to organize the large number of Negro working men and women of New York and vicinity into an effective labor organization. The Associated Colored Employees of America, which began its work on July 1, three days before the East St. Louis riots, is the first Negro labor union in this country, and, although its aim primarily is to bring about a sense of solidarity among its own people, it seeks also to spread the feeling of class consciousness.

A bulletin already has been issued by the Associated Colored Employees, the purpose of which is to give "facts concerning conditions in the North compiled for the benefit of those who

some day expect or desire to be actually free." The booklet is called "A Message From the North for Negroes."

The association is conducting a survey and census of all Negro workers in the city and vicinity. It already has collected a mass of information regarding the trades in which Negroes are to be found, and in what numbers. These facts it will use as a first-hand source of information for colored workers eager to come here from the South. In this work it is functioning as an employment bureau, making no charge to union members, who pay \$1 to enter the union, and advising the members where their particular work is to be found.

Although the survey is yet far from completed, the union has found an amazing number of instances of misfit workers. It has found graduate engineers and electricians and experienced carpenters, painters and shipbuilders doing the work of porters, elevator men and janitors. To find the work which these men should really be doing is one of the aims of the employment bureau of the union.

Branches of the union are to be established in all cities with a Negro population of 5,000. In all of the Northern cities the Negro workers are being taught that they have within their hands the power of the ballot and they are being instructed in that use of the ballot which will bid best for the interests of the working masses. To do this educational work in an efficient manner, the union has decided to issue the Industrial Bulletin, a journal of information and comment. F. Harrison Hough is the editor of the new magazine.

STRIKE OF RAILROAD MEN YET UNSETTLED

No Agreement Reached Between Rocky Mount Strikers And Their Employers

Journalist's Hand
(By James A. Clark)

Rocky Mount, N. C.—Very little progress has been made in settling the "walk-out" of the five hundred colored laborers in the Atlantic Coast Line shops here.

Citizens of both races appear anxious that these men should get the increased wage fixed by the government. The railroad officials have refused to yield after several conferences with committees representing both races.

An understanding had been almost reached through the efforts of Rev. M. A. Talley, whereby the railroad promised to restore the men to work at the same pay given white men for the same work, but when the union asked for a written statement it was refused and the officials declared they only intended to give the men ordinary laborers' work, because most of the vacancies as machinists' helpers had been filled by white men and there was a growing sentiment on the part of the company and the white union to exclude the men from these positions

Labor - 1917

Unions and Strikes

2500 Machinists Draw Line on Negro and Strike; Officials Stand by King

BY MANAGER G. E. EMMONS.

"It is contrary to the policy of the company to take any action detrimental to the best interests of its employees, but it will tolerate no discrimination against any worthy individual on account of nationality or color. The management believes that every person should be given an opportunity to improve his condition, which the young man in question is trying to do."

BY JOSEPH LEFKOWITZ.

(A Striker)

"We ask no more than the United States Government. This nation has several regiments of Negro soldiers. It is known that these Negroes are not allowed to frequent the same recreation grounds as the white soldiers, nor are they in any manner allowed to mingle with the whites. What this government sees fit in practising we feel justified in demanding."

Schenectady, N. Y.—Demanding that the color line be drawn in the large plant of the General Electric Company here the same as the United States Government practices segregation in the army, 2,500 machinists and toolmakers went on a strike Monday, said to be one of the most peculiar labor strikes on record in this section of the State.

The color issue was created when a young colored man—Wendell King—was put to work in the machine shops of the General Electric Company. King is of a good family in upper Troy, N. Y., and was graduated from the Lansingburg High School in 1916. He entered Union College, Schenectady, last September, and soon attracted attention as an excellent student in wireless telegraphy and French.

It is not that the Union men are opposed to the firm employing colored men, but it is opposed to white and colored working together. The officials of the General Electric Company oppose segregation; hence, the strike is likely to be a protracted one, as the heads of the company have shown no disposition to withdraw from their position.

The General Electric Company employs six Negroes in the office, two in the shop and a hundred or more in the yard. But not until a few days ago did a Negro ever work as a machinist. Then the question of the separation of the races arose.

The Schenectady *Union-Star*, in giving an account of the strike in its news columns under the headline, "Machinists Demand Same Color Line in G. E. Plant as Exists in U. S. Army," gives the following facts:

"It was 9.15 when the walkout orders were issued to the machinists by the union officials, and they gathered in front of the office building until every man who intended to walk out, was present. Orderliness characterized the meeting, and as soon as all were ready, the signal was given, and the parade started with a cheer. A dozen or so young girls followed the leader who CARRIED AN AMERICAN FLAG."

"Work on the upper end of the plant was practically suspended as the men walked out, everybody gathering to see the parade."

"George E. Emmons, general manager of the plant, watched the men leave the plant from his office window."

"Leaving the General Electric gates, in River road, the strikers paraded up Dock street, and turned into State, where the march continued up to Cres-

cent Park. In a few words Mr. Lefkowitz laid the situation before the men.

"We are here," he said in opening, "to discuss the matter in the quietest manner possible. While we are out for our cause we must conduct ourselves in an orderly manner. The machinists' organizations of Schenectady are now on strike; the issue being drawn on the failure of the General Electric officials to grant us the right of presenting at any time a request through a grievance committee. We have given them fair warning. The ultimatum was forwarded Saturday through the same mail that the officials receive their other letters. There was no response, and our action could lay in only one direction."

"Do not lose sight of the fact that we are fighting, not on the grounds of race prejudice, but on the grounds of moral convictions."

"The speaker went on to explain that the real issue of the strike was the employment of one Negro, who was put to work in the shop under the jurisdiction of the machinists organization, which act is contrary to the laws of that organization, he said. The organization does not ask that Negroes be refused employment, but simply that they be employed separate and apart from white workers."

"We are not unfair in our demands," said Mr. Lefkowitz, in ending his address. "We ask no more than the United States Government. This nation has several regiments of Negro soldiers. It is known that those Negroes are not allowed to frequent the same recreation grounds as the white soldiers, nor are they in any manner, allowed to mingle with the whites. What this Government sees fit in practicing, we feel justified in demanding."

Company officials claim the issue to be the employment by the company of a young colored man. According to Mr. Emmons, Wendell King, is a student at Union College, and was recommended by the faculty with twenty-five or thirty other young men in the college as being a worthy boy to aid in securing his college education. The young man was put to work June 8, and is at present employed in building 23 operating a drill press. The first intimation of any dissatisfaction, he said, was last Tuesday

afternoon when a committee of machinists protested against the young man being longer employed in the capacity of a machinist.

Mr. Emmons contends a committee of the machinists practically demanded that the young colored man be taken off that work to which Mr. Emmons replied that he could see no reason, for establishing a color line. He told the committee that the young man was a college student and worthy of being aided.

Mr. Emmons Believes in a Real Democracy.

Mr. Emmons left his office last Tuesday night when he received the ultimatum of the union. The ultimatum was decided on a meeting of the union Friday night and said in part: "We take this means of notifying you that the machinists demand that the management recognize the machinists committee and that Negro labor will not be employed under the jurisdiction of the machinists," and was signed by Joseph Lefkowitz, William Hogan, W. L. Sargent, W. Walker and E. Cooley.

There were about 2,500 machinists who left the works this morning, practically all the machinists employed by the company, and many of them were busy on government work. Just what effect, if any, this will have with the government officials could not be determined to-day. When asked if he thought the government would step in and take a hand in the matter, Mr. Emmons said he did not know, and had hardly given the matter a thought. All other branches of work continued as usual after the machinists walked out.

In a formal statement Mr. Emmons expressed himself as follows:

"It is contrary to the policy of the company to take any action detrimental to the best interests of its employees, but it will tolerate no discrimination against any worthy individual on account of nationality or color."

"The management believes that every person should be given an opportunity to improve his condition which the young man in question is trying to do."

NEGRO WORKMEN MENACED.

Police Guard Strikers Who Have Replaced Whites at Calvary Cemetery.

Fearing trouble because of the employment of fifty negro strikebreakers at Calvary Cemetery, a heavy police guard was placed over the men yesterday and they are being taken to and from their homes in automobiles.

At a meeting called by Superintendent Cunningham yesterday, at which time the men were given an opportunity to return to work or collect their back pay, every striker turned in his check and took the pay due him. Cunningham announced that the cemetery officials cannot grant the increase of twenty-five cents a day and the reduction from nine to eight hours. The strikers continue to gather in the vicinity of the cemetery and at times have displayed a threatening attitude against the negroes.

FACTORY GIRLS RESENT ABUSE *The Journal & Guide*

DECLARE STRIKE WHEN "BOSS" ASSAULTED ONE OF THEIR NUMBER IN KNITTING MILL.

3-3-17

Superintendent Discharged Offending Foreman And Girls Returned To Work With No Loss Of Time—Mill Owned By White People Of Rocky Mount.

(By O. R. Pope.)

Rocky Mount, N. C.—Declaring that they would not work under the manager, every one of the female colored operatives at the knitting mill here left their work at eleven o'clock last Thursday morning. The trouble arose when the white floor manager cursed one of the girls and attempted to otherwise abuse her. When the superintendent learned of the trouble later in the day he immediately began to visit the homes of the operatives asking them to return to work. The offending white manager was discharged and the girls returned to their work with no loss of time.

This mill is owned and managed entirely by white people. They employ colored girls from some of the best families in the city. They have made good and the management has expressed its determination to see that they are treated with respect.

The membership campaign in progress at the Mt. Zion Baptist Sunday School is having the effect of bringing into the Sunday School a large crowd of young men.

The Invincible Concert Company consisting of five artists, two of whom are known as the blind wonders to whom all instruments are alike, will appear at Lincoln School, Monday March 5th.

An event of unusual importance is the coming to the city of Mrs. M. B. Talbert of Washington, D. C., who will lecture at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Thursday night, March 7. Mrs. Talbert comes under the auspices of the Woman's Federation. She is a speaker of unusual ability.

The Rev. P. O. Jones, pastor of the A. M. E. Church, announces the coming of the District Conference to his church the latter part of March.

Special memorial services were held at the A. M. E. Zion Church last Sunday night, in honor of Bishop Alexander Walters. The Rev. Nixon was master of ceremonies. Addresses were made by Dr. P. W. Burnett, Atty. C. F. Rich, Prof. Jas. A. Clark and O. R.

Pope. Appropriate resolutions were read by Mr. J. W. Parker. Special musical numbers were rendered by Miss L. J. Merrimon and the Excelsior Quartet.

3 WHITE GIRLS STRIKE ON COLOR UNDER GOVT

AT U. S. BUREAU OF ENGRAVING & BECAUSE COLORED WOMEN PUT PRINTING AT NATIONAL CAPITOL TO WORK AT POWER PRESSES NEAR THEM—TRY TO PUT CASE BEFORE WOMAN CONGRESSWOMAN—MAY FORM LABOR UNION AND DEMAND COLORED BE NOT EMPLOYED OR NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

Guardian
This is the Logical Result of the Wilson Segregation—Creates Color Prejudice and Embodies Negro Hating Whites.

(Washington Post, Oct. 2, 1917.)
Because colored women were put to work beside them at a power press in the bureau of engraving and printing yesterday, three white girls went on strike, according to information brought out last night at a meeting of employees of the bureau in the Typographical Temple.

The three girls are understood to have taken their case up with Miss Jeannette Rankin, member of Congress from Montana, but Miss Rankin said last night that it was a problem for the girls and their newly formed organization. She said that she was not in when the girls called to lay their grievance before her.

winner at Payne Seminary, Wilberforce University.

At the meeting in Typographical Temple last night it was indicated by speakers that the way to overcome the race distinction in the bureau of engraving was for the white women employees to perfect their union immediately and then oppose the employment of colored women. It was suggested that efforts be taken to have colored women denied the privilege of civil service examinations.

A Treasury branch of the Federal Employees Union will be organized tonight and officers elected at a meeting in the G. A. R. hall. Bureau of engraving employees have been urged to join this branch.

UNION LABOR AND THE EAST ST. LOUIS RIOTS

PACKING HOUSES PUT BLAME ON WORKER'S ORGANIZATIONS.

OCTOBER 25, 1917
Industries of National City Employ

Many Negroes, Some of Them Lawless, and Maintain the Open Shop.

[Special Correspondence of The Evening Post.]
EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., October 23.—Adjoining East St. Louis, where a Federal investigation is now being held to determine whether the rioting, which took place there last July, violated interstate law, is National City.

While the boundaries of the two places touch, National City is in no sense a part of East St. Louis. It is a city unto itself—to be absolutely correct, a village into itself, for under the laws of the State of Illinois, National City was chartered under the statute providing for the formation of "villages." This statute provides that a "village" must measure two miles in each direction, so National City was laid off in compliance with this requirement, and was chartered in 1907.

The amazing thing about National City is that, while it does in fact measure a distance of only two miles in each direction, and that, while her population is little over two hundred persons, she includes within her boundaries property amounting to \$10,000,000.

This is accounted for by the fact that within these boundaries lie the so-called East St. Louis branches of the great packing houses of Swift, Armour, and Morris, and the National Stockyards. This last is alone worth several million dollars.

The managing heads of these great concerns were called upon to testify before the Congressional Committee, giving information as to what effect the July

riots had on interstate commerce, and also submitting to the Committee testimony to the effect that large Federal contracts were delayed by shortage of labor caused by the riots.

MANY NEGROES EMPLOYED.

The percentage of negro labor employed by these concerns is large. In the packing houses, the powerful negro, bred in the rural districts of the South, is particularly valuable. He constitutes 80 per cent. of the killing gang of Armour & Co. and 40 per cent. of the entire force of two thousand two hundred men. Swift & Co. draw 42 per cent. of their labor from the same source.

The country negro is accustomed to dealing with live stock, an invaluable in the stockyards. In this concern, enormous housing quarters are provided for a large number of horses, mules, and hogs to be kept until their ultimate disposal is determined. The rate for keeping a horse for a day is fifty cents, for a mule forty cents.

Included in these corporations are cotton-oil mills, and large fertilizer industries. In some departments of these industries the work is so disagreeable that it is impossible to procure white men who will do the work at any price. In the fertilizer plants, tobacco dust, rot phosphate, and ground bone are among the ingredients employed, causing a continual dust in the atmosphere which no white man can or will endure. Here again the negro is employed. No white men whatever are employed in this department.

With the South so near at hand for the manufacturers to draw additional farm labor from, and with any number of negroes ready at any time to leave their homes and come to East St. Louis, where it was well known that jobs were plentiful at all times, it is small wonder that unionized labor found itself with a huge problem on its hands. The labor unions in East St. Louis are vigorous fighting bodies. Their problem was tremendously difficult. Between the employer and the unorganized negro, their road lay far from clear.

OPEN TOWN FOR CRIME.

The political condition of East St. Louis would in its nature attract a lawless type of immigrant, and brutal and unjust as his treatment by the white mob on July 2 was, the negro himself has not been failing in his tendency to take advantage of the fact that East St. Louis was an open town for crime. The only protection needed by any person, white or colored, was to be on the side of the local administration. Every witness who has appeared before the committee has made this plain.

The two hundred inhabitants of National City form a small proportion of the number who work daily in these large concerns. The remaining percentage of the employees live in East St. Louis. The employers live for the most

part in St. Louis.

The municipality is governed by the Village Formation, a board of five trustees, the president of which corresponds to the mayor in other cities. Since the village is made up of the plants of these large corporations, it naturally follows that the Village Formation is composed of their heads. The president of the board at the present time is also a member of the Police Department of Swift & Co., who acts as head of the employment agency for the packing-house as well.

There are not more than thirty-two residence houses in the village. Each plant has its own Police Department and its own Fire Department. National City pays no taxes to East St. Louis, and it was merely a matter of accommodation that the Fire Department of East St. Louis recently responded to a call and put out a fire which threatened the entire district with destruction.

Since the July riots, certain heads of these plants, acting with the Board of One Hundred, a committee of East St. Louis business men who are striving to rehabilitate the city, have volunteered funds for the maintenance of a larger police force in East St. Louis. This, however, is a temporary assistance, and when it is withdrawn, East St. Louis will, apparently, have to return to her former support from saloons and liquor licenses. While many of the East St. Louis industries have accepted the labor union, the corporations in National City have maintained, and still maintain, the open shop.

STRIKE OF LAST APRIL.

The Aluminum Ore Co., around whose April strike much of the dissatisfaction of the past spring and summer revolved, is not located in National City. No prolonged strike has occurred in any of the National City industries during the past year. Of the two thousand one hundred men employed by the Aluminum Ore Co., fourteen thousand walked out when the April strike was called. Many of these were still out when the mass meeting of May 28 was called, and they attended in a body.

This meeting was called for the purpose of demanding of the Mayor that some plan be adopted by which the influx of negroes be checked, and some portion of the number who had already arrived in East St. Louis be disposed of. It was the contention of the labor unions that these men were being used to their detriment by some of the capitalists, and a few of the real estate owners. Feeling had already passed the boundaries of discussion, however, and notwithstanding the Mayor's promises that he would give the problem his most earnest attention, the crowd broke up in a riot, which was the preliminary to the final massacre of July 2.

National City has been forced to shut

down business in one or two of her industries for periods of a week or ten days at a time on account of shortage of labor since the riots, owing to the negroes having been frightened away, but open shop still holds.

National City blames the riots absolutely on organized labor, considering no other solution. Race prejudice, to its mind, was a bloody weapon in the hands of the labor unions. Its packing-house managers, testifying before the Congressional Committee, commented on the "blue-shirted mob."

It is said that in the interval between the May and July riots, Moyer, of Moyer, Pettibone, and Haywood fame, visited East St. Louis, and made speeches in which he attempted to pour oil upon the troubled waters of labor conditions. Ex-Representative Patrick Gill, of St. Louis, also counselled moderation and slow-moving in the face of a complicated problem. Both of these men doubtless realized the necessity of extreme caution in a situation of composite troubles such as faced East St. Louis.

NEGROES MAY BE IMPORTED TO BREAK NEW PHILADELPHIA O TIRE OCTOBER 26, 1917 ENAMELLERS STRIKE

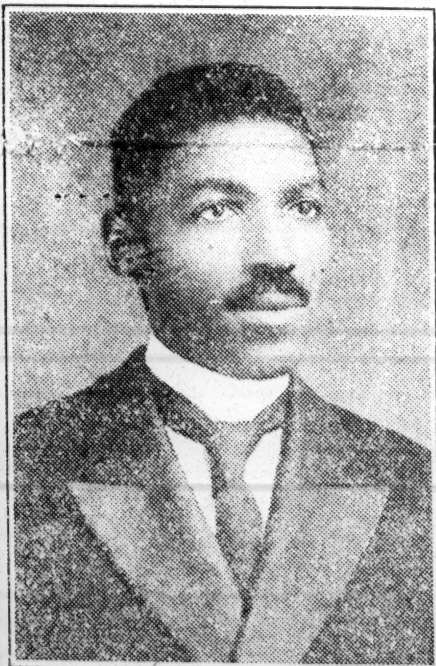
Will southern negroes be imported into New Philadelphia to break strike of employees at the Belmont Enamelling and Enamelling company's which has been in effect since C

This was a question which southern negroes were asking Friday. No verification of the report could be secured from officials of the company who have refused to discuss the situation publicly.

Operations at the plant have practically ceased since the strike was declared. Almost to a man employees have refused to work until their demands for higher wages, better working conditions and recognition of their labor union, are given attention.

The plant has been picketted by strikers and their friends since the strike began. Persons seeking employment are advised of the strike and asked not to work at the plant. So far there has been no violence. Officials of the company have made no attempt to prevent the picketting. "The strike will continue until our demands are met," one of the leaders of the union declared Friday. "Employees are standing as a unit."

Many of the employees of the company have secured work in other lines, it is said. Local labor unions are aiding the strikers to secure employment.



REV. S. P. PERRY OF MASS.
Pastor of A. M. E. church, Chelsea.
Delegate to Convention.—Church celebrating 6th Anniversary.—Prize

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes

Strike Settled at Schenectady 6,000 Men Return to Work; Firm Will Not Remove Negro

New York Age 11-25-17
Schenectady, N.Y.—The strike of the machinists of the General Electric Company is over. The men have resumed work and Wendell King, the young colored man over whom all the trouble arose remains in the shop under the exact conditions which obtained when the men machinists walked out.

The strike was declared off last week at a meeting held at Machinists' Hall, the men approving the settlement terms offered by the company in conference between the union men's grievance committee and Vice-President G. E. Emmons, who has stood by King from the beginning.

The hall was filled to capacity with strikers when the meeting was called to order, and after debating the company's offer for over two hours a vote was taken and the decision was unanimous to return to work.

Vice-President Emmons Talks.

Vice-President Emmons has issued the following statement in behalf of the General Electric Company:
"I am glad that the men have accepted my advice and will return to



WENDELL KING.

their places and will work peaceably with all their fellow workmen.
"The young man, Wendell King, remains in his present place.
"I propose in the future, as in the

past, to see that every employee of the company, irrespective of position, has a fair deal. I value the confidence and good will of the men, with many of whom I have been associated for more than 20 years, more highly than I can express."

Superintendent James A. Smith expressed his satisfaction with the termination of the strike as follows:

"I want to express my satisfaction at the termination of the strike."

"I want to say that the union has been fair and has maintained excellent order throughout."

"As far as we are concerned the incident is closed. Other than this I have nothing to say and the statement which will be given you will be satisfactory to the company."

Notices were immediately sent out after the meeting of strikers at Machinists' Hall to the six thousand men who walked out. The company's work had become more and more tied up each day although the officials refused to recede from their original stand. In addition to other contracts, the company is building the electrical equipment to be used on three of the five battle cruisers now under construction.

None of the urgent work of the company is said to have been seriously retarded by the eight days' strike of the five thousand machinists and helpers. The 8,000 electrical workers employed by the firm refused to strike in sympathy with the machinists.

Lefkowitz An Alien.

It also became known after the strike that W. H. Johnson, president of the International Association of Machinists had wired to the officers of the Schenectady machinists' union advising them against striking. The attorney general international president, it is said, was for the fact that no international was in Schenectady during the strike. Joseph Lefkowitz, chairman of the grievance committee and president of

Machinists' Union 204, largest of the machinists' organizations in Schenectady admits he is an alien.

He says his father, Samuel Lefkowitz, had declared his intention of becoming a citizen October 13, 1912, but died before citizenship papers were granted. Lefkowitz says his brother, William Lefkowitz, declared his intention to become a citizen December 15, 1912, and was admitted to citizenship September 20, 1915.

"I declared my intention of becoming a citizen May 9, 1917," Lefkowitz said. "Until that time I was under the impression I did not have to become naturalized. It will now be more than two years before I can get full citizenship."

OBJECTION TO BLANKET PLAN ON ARBITRATION RAISED IN F. OF L.

NOVEMBER 22, 1917

CONVENTION STIRRED
COAST DELEGATES' OPPOSITION TO "GENERAL AGREEMENT" — BARNES AND GOMPERS CLASH ON PERSONALITIES.

(From The Call's Buffalo Bureau.)

BOFFALO, Nov. 21.—Delegate Taylor from the coast, interested in marine machinists' controversies, made

strong objection to a blanket approval of the labor agreements as applied to the metal trades at the A. F. of L. convention today. Taylor said:

"We on the coast don't believe in signing anything or to leave anything in the hands of an adjustment board unless the representation on it is fair to us." He said this was not now the case on the coast.

On compulsory arbitration which appeared to be agreed upon between the government and the various presidents of the international organization and which the employers had not signed, Taylor said the coast delegation was opposed because in signing away the strike right, the unions were throwing their only club away.

James Duncan, chairman and first vice president of the A. F. of L., rushed to the defense of the document, saying that if it wasn't for President Wilson the workers wouldn't even have got that much. This remark brought a hot reply by James A. Duncan of the Seattle Central Labor union, who said:

"As far as this benevolent business is concerned it's all slush. All we ever get is through the power of our organization."

Then Gustav Brown spoke. He said:

"Our skilled men on the ships have been replaced by naval reserve men. The naval reserves are recruited all over the country and have had little experience at sea; in fact at least 90 per cent of them have never been to sea. It is not the time now to replace our skilled men by unskilled. It will bring disaster not only to the ships but to the troops."

He said on 40 ships this process had already been carried out. He continued:

Displaced Men Drafted.

"We believe our men know the business of bringing ships and troops safely across, men who know what to do in an emergency. In addition to displacing our men they are drafting them to put them in training camps ashore."

"I can mention about 40 vessels where our men have been displaced," continued Brown. "It is sheer madness and I warn you."

On the labor agreement approval, Veright of California and McKillip of the boiler makers, requested to table the motion, but it was lost on a vote which also carried the original motion.

Barnes then on question of personal privilege asked the day before, asked Gompers for a chance to speak. The latter replied:

"I leave it to the convention."

On the vote the ayes had it, but Gompers asked for a show of hands and he was overwhelmed and Barnes got his chance.

"I am pleased to note that the hysteria and mob spirit of last night has been allayed," said Barnes. "It is not entirely new to me because twice recently I have been the victim of mob attacks."

He referred to the abuse heaped upon him the day before.

"It was the annual dose from the escape valve heaped upon me yesterday," he declared, and added that his representation would never be corrected in the lurid stories sent out.

"The finger was pointed at me for being responsible for the dual organizations in the American labor movement," he said.

Has Fought Dual Organizations.

"I never have been a member of a dual organization and I have fought them all my life."

He denied the Gompers assertion of the night before, that the Socialist party had indorsed the Western Labor union, the American Labor union, the Socialist Trades and Labor alliance or the Industrial Workers of the World. He said he had only belonged to one labor organization for 30 years, the cigar makers' union, and he declared he was proud of it.

He deplored the false issues that had been woven into the alliance debate. He said that it was an imposition on the delegates that they in their sober senses knew. He declared his stand for the working classes always and for free speech, free press and freedom of assemblage in peace or war.

He denied absolutely the charge about the cigar makers' blue label at the attack on the cigar makers' union branding them as deliberate falsehoods.

Gompers Denies Mob Spirit.

Gompers answered him fully and denounced the statement that mob spirit had stamped the convention of the night before. He changed his tune on the Socialist party accusation and said it was the Socialist Labor party he meant. He said Barnes' stand was that of a "petit fogging lawyer."

He bolstered up his position by dragging in Daniel de Leon, long dead for having once challenged him to debate on the necessity for the union and for this he held Barnes responsible. He called on President Perkins of the cigar makers to corroborate him, which he dutifully did.

"I treated him (De Leon) with the same contempt as I did the letter of Maurer, of Pennsylvania," said Gompers.

The letter was in answer to the oft-propounded question, which has never been answered, on where the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy got the money. He then took The Call to task.

Gompers Wouldn't Help.

"Something Less than a month ago The New York Call wanted a man in Washington to be its correspondent and the only condition was that he should berate and attack me. That was Julian Pierce and they offered it to another man, and he immediately proceeded to make good. And he made good, but he didn't need to come to me and he couldn't do so with my assistance," he said.

In conclusion he remarked sententiously:

"For the love of Mike, don't open up any further, for then I will have something to say."

In the afternoon James Duncan by request read a long account of the geographical beauties of Russia which he visited in company with Ellihu Root and others.

J. F. Blakely of Milwaukee made a good fight for his free press resolution without getting support. In answer to him John T. Frey said:

"In the committee report in the morning session the recommendation deals only with one public official (Burlison) and the report deals with all."

Only Voight Spoke.

It appeared as if the opposition had spent all of its energies on the efforts the day before on the alliance. Only Voight of California, one of the disturbers, spoke up, saying:

"I want to be recorded as voting no on the recommendation since it is necessary where I come from."

Late in the evening a terrific debate resulted on the Negro question. But immediately before came the Perkins resolution indorsing all the acts of Gompers in the war situation and it passed without opposition. With this move every act of the executive council was also approved.

The fight could have been made on this resolution with the full support of the coast delegation and was not made, because of the vigilance of the minority was not equal to the task of watching

Negro Question Brought Up.

The Negro question was brought up on a resolution through friends of the International Negro league, which cited the crimes against the Negroes.

Gorman, of Georgia, in a protest speech, declared that there were more Negroes killed in the East St. Louis riots than had been lynched or burnt at the stake during all time in the South.

The resolution was completely demolished by the committee. The good will of the Southern union men in fostering unionism among the Negroes was unmistakable and the general impression was one of good will to the Negro.

Frey explained that a Negro leader long dead, who had opposed Negroes joining labor unions, had not been able to prevent the truth from finally dawning in the minds of the Negro worker that they must organize.

NEGRO LABOR RECOGNIZED

A. F. of L. Decides to Organize Its Colored Workers.

NOVEMBER 19, 1917
MOVE FINDS SUPPORT IN SOUTH

Pro "Peace" Propagandists Stir Up Trouble.

BUFFALO, Nov. 19.—Organization of American negroes along lines that will prevent massacres and riots, such as occurred in East St. Louis, was decided on by the American Federation of Labor here to-day.

For the first time in history negro delegates addressed the convention, asking that their ranks be organized. The federation voted to appoint an organizer under a special department to do this work in all sections of the country.

Southern delegates gave the move their full support. Delegate King of Alabama seconded the motion on this resolution. He declared that prejudice

against the negro worker was dying in the South, that great migrations of colored laborers from South to North was uneconomic and inspired by the negro's mistaken belief that he could better himself by going North. He said he believed the organization of the colored men would insure the absence of future race riots of serious proportions everywhere in the country.

"Pro-Peace" Faction Appears.

The "pro-peace" factionists made their long-expected invasion of the labor convention late to-day and precipitated a bitter fight on the presumably long dead people's council issue.

These are the forces opposed to the pro-Government policy of the Federation of Labor.

The fight started on a resolution recommended for adoption by the executive council endorsing "the patriotic motives" of the American alliance for labor and democracy, the organization which followed the people's council on its wanderings through the Middle West to offset its peace convention proclivities.

The attack was led by John M. Barnes, former secretary of the Socialist party and by Delegate Fisher, a Canadian representative.

Barnes bitterly assailed the Governors of Minnesota and Illinois for stopping the People's Council convention, accused President Gompers of organizing the American Alliance to put down the People's Council and to "usurp the prerogatives and privileges of the rank and file of labor by shutting off free speech."

"No Patriotism in Mine."

"The American Alliance afterward invited these two Governors to address its members. If that's patriotism you can count me out. I'm not a patriot and I don't want any of it in mine."

Fisher, after announcing that he had four brothers in the war and that one of them had been killed, denounced the resolution, the American Alliance, the anti-I. W. W. hanging in Wyoming, the deportations in Arizona and other such events. He vehemently denied that he was an I. W. W. or a People's Council apostle. Then turning to Gompers in the chair he yelled: "But this resolution is too indefinite. I demand to know your definition of patriotism before I proceed with my opinion of the resolution."

"Then you will have to retain your criticism," said Gompers.

Several delegates interrupted at this point to demand that the issue of patriotism be not discussed. Gompers waved the objectors aside and encouraged the "Reds" to say as many and as bitter things as they cared to.

A motion to lay the resolution on the table was voted down with howls.

A nationwide pro-American campaign to offset the secret pro-German propaganda in the ranks of American workers is being planned by the American Federation of Labor.

Quiet preparations in this campaign, which have been going on for a week,

are looked upon by President Gompers as one of the most important developments of the federation's convention.

The plan is expected to smooth out much of the labor angle in Government ship yards, to have a soothing effect on the coal mine situation and, though the brotherhoods are not affiliated with the federation, to help put down the strike and disaffection spirit in the railroad group.

The outward and visible signs of this propaganda will be speech making labor leaders, who will make carefully mapped out tours among the different classes of labor, explaining the federation's pro-Government attitude, warning labor against the influence of German sympathizers and impressing upon it the urgent war need of full and uninterrupted production.

Not a day has passed at the present convention that Gompers has not voiced the conviction that the ranks of labor are full of German propagandists and agents and that they constitute a very real and serious menace to America's war progress. He pointed to-day to the navy's recently reiterated spy warning as proof of his contention.

The convention is expected this week to adopt the executive council's report, which outlines its "behind the Government" war policy and its reconstruction policy after the war.

ROCKY MOUNT NEGROES STRIKE Raleigh Independent DEMAND HIGHER WAGES

(Special to The Raleigh Independent.

Rocky Mount, Sept. 11.—More than 500 Negro employees of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway at South Rocky Mount walked out yesterday at 11 o'clock because their demands for an increase in wages of six and one half cents an hour and back pay dating from March first was not granted. The railroad had agreed upon a four cents an hour increase. The employees claim that their organization is a part of the American Federation of Labor. Some believe this is a new organization as it did not take part in the agreements reached at Washington on August 24. No settlement of the controversy is sight at this writing.

PACIFISTS SILENC! IN A. F. OF L. RANKS

NOVEMBER 21, 1917

Clear Cut Loyalty Resolution Adopted at Buffalo Convention.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 20.—Without a dissenting vote the American Federation of Labor to-day reaffirmed its unswerving loyalty to the country and a determination to stand behind the national Administration until peace comes. The pacifist element which yesterday mustered a small minority against President Gompers's attitude in support of the war was silent.

The resolution containing the declaration was reported favorably by the resolutions committee. The course pursued by President Gompers in calling a conference of the national and international officers of the federation at Washington on March 12 was approved and all his subsequent actions and those of the executive council with reference to the war were concurred in.

Pacifists Remain Silent.

The pacifists declared that they were unaware that the resolution was to come up to-day. They made no move for a reconsideration, however, and it was pointed out that while their fight yesterday was based on a vote of confidence in President Gompers to-day's resolution called for a declaration on a clear cut question of loyalty to the country.

This resolution, with others from the committee on resolutions, occupied practically the entire day. Vice-President James Duncan made a report at the afternoon session on his trip to Russia as a member of the commission appointed by President Wilson, and Gifford Pinchot, speaking for the Federated Board of Farm Organizations, asked for closer relations between the farmers' organizations and the American Federation of Labor.

The only resolution that caused extended debate related to the organization of negro labor. The resolution specifically referred to the "Southern States" as the scenes of wrongs inflicted upon the race.

O. D. Gorman of Georgia protested against the reference to the Southern States remaining in the record and moved as an amendment to strike out the entire section.

Southern States Defended.

"The slaughter at East St. Louis came as a result of thefts by starving negroes enticed away from their Southern homes," Gorman said. "I defy any delegate to point to a single instance of a negro being killed for robbery in the South. I resent this reference to the Southern States. The treatment of the negro in the South is better than it has been in the North."

Gorman and other Southern delegates insisted that this was not going far enough and demanded that the section

be stricken out. President Gompers ruled that no such action could be taken as the question before the house was on the approval or disapproval of the report from the committee on resolutions. A motion to lay the report on the table was lost and the debate was resumed.

Finally the report was amended by the resolutions committee to read: "Your committee cannot be responsible for the statements contained in the preamble of the resolution," and as so amended the report was adopted.

In his address on Russia Vice-President Duncan expressed confidence in the ultimate formation of a stable and lasting republican Government there.

STRIKE REPORTS ARE BEING HEARD

Miners Seem Dissatisfied and Many Have Left Bessemer District.

BIRMINGHAM ALA NEWS
AUGUST 31, 1917

Reports of unrest and threats of local strikes among the coal miners of the immediate district have come to Bessemer in the past day or so with alarming regularity. Those in touch with the situation state that meetings have been held at nearly every important mining center during the week and only the influence of the white members of the unions have prevented walkouts at various places.

A number of negroes have quit work at Virginia Mines of the Gulf States Steel Company, it is declared, and several of them have already gone off on transportation. It is understood that others are making arrangements to leave. The situation in the Blue Creek fields is little better, according to reports, and a number of interesting meetings are slated to be held Friday and Saturday.

Officers of the United Mine Workers of America addressed gatherings at Johns Thursday afternoon at 2:30 and later in the evening at Yolande. It is understood that results of the meetings were not satisfactory, and the men still maintain the position that their interests have not been handled to their satisfaction.

It is stated by officials of the United Mine Workers that the miners are leaving their jobs over the entire district. It is rumored in Bessemer that the unrest will probably result in the election of new officers in a number of locals.

Denies Intent to Import Negroes.

Stories of wholesale negro importations from the South that have thrown union labor circles in the Calumet region into a ferment are denied by manufacturers represented by the United States Chemical Company of Hammond, Ind., which recently purchased the largest hotel there to house its employees.

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes

New York Age

The American Federation of Labor is making extensive preparations to win over the colored wage-earner to the cause of organized labor. This fact has been admitted by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter to The Age defining the organization's position on the subject.

When word was received by The Age last week that the American Federation of Labor, in session at Buffalo, N. Y., had voted to organize the colored workers, Mr. Gompers was asked by this paper if the move was a sincere one; if it meant the giving of the Negro a square deal in every particular, Negroes being somewhat distrustful of organized labor as it had not shown much consideration for the colored workingman in the past.

Although every minute of Mr. Gompers' time was taken up with important matters throughout the session of the convention, the labor leader saw fit to promptly reply to The Age as follows:

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.
Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1917.

Mr. Fred R. Moore, Publisher,
The New York Age,
247 W. 46th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 20th instant is received and contents noted. In reply let me call your attention to the provisions of the well-known declaration of the American Federation of Labor providing for the organization of all wage-earners, irrespective of creed, color, race or nationality.

The constitution of the A. F. of L. also provides, Section 6, Article XI, as follows:

Sec. 6, Article XI.—Separate charters may be issued to Central Labor Unions, local union, or Federal labor unions, composed exclusively of colored members, where, in the judgment of the Executive Council, it appears advisable and to the best interests of the Trade Union movement to do so.

There are many colored wage-earners who hold membership in the unions affiliated to the A. F. of L. The constitution provides for the organization of separate unions of colored workers when that may be deemed advisable and to the best advantage of the workers themselves, as well as to the general labor movement. Provision is also made for the organization of separate central labor unions when that course is deemed wisest.

There are several central bodies now affiliated to the A. F. of L.

whose delegates represent local unions of colored workers only. We are doing our level best to organize the wage-earners whether white or colored, and we shall continue in that course.

You may be interested in a discussion which occurred on the floor of the convention of the A. F. of L. now in session in this city, upon resolution regarding the organization of colored workers. Copy of the seventh day's proceedings of the convention is enclosed herein. You will find the resolutions and discussion on Page 278.

I should like to write you at greater length upon the subject, but you will appreciate of course how crowded I am for time owing to the work of the convention.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) Samuel Gompers,
President American Fed. of Labor.

The resolution to which Mr. Gompers makes reference in his letter reads:

Resolution No. 58—By Delegates Walter Green, T. B. Henry, James E. Cousins, John L. Price, William N. Chavis:

WHEREAS, The colored delegates representing the local unions affiliated directly with the American Federation of Labor in the State of Virginia, having thoroughly examined the situation of organized labor and the elements that must go into the workings, so as to place its benefits within the reach of all its members without regard to race or color, and feeling that the interest of the cause would be greatly improved if the colored organizers were given a place in the workings of the American Federation of Labor, of organizing additional local unions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the colored delegates of directly affiliated local unions of the State of Virginia do hereby request this convention to grant and recommend that colored organizers be appointed or elected, according to the convention's rulings, and placed especially in Virginia at the following cities where organizing is greatly needed: Roanoke, Richmond, Rocky Mount, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Suffolk, Va.; Raleigh, N. C., and Jacksonville, Fla., or any city where organizers may be needed. These cities named are working at a low rate of wages per diem and need the serv-

ices and advantages of American Federation of Labor organizers.

Your committee refers this resolution to the Executive Council for action if the funds of the Federation will permit.

The report of the committee was adopted.

It is reported that the work of organizing Negroes in the South will be started at once.

**THE NEGRO MUST NOT
FIDDLE FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO DANCE**

Independent, Dec. 23, 1917

The Union Herald of this city, organ of the labor union people in these parts, in its issue of December 13, is in a terrible state of alarm because the white people at the University of North Carolina and in Raleigh have been tripping the light fantastic toe to the music of Negro fiddlers. It sees dire consequences to happen from such an innovation upon the established usages of our people and throws out an ominous warning. Such a thing, the Herald says, is unusual in these parts. Certainly the Herald writer is not familiar with the ways of these parts. Negro musicians have been furnishing music for the white people of North Carolina for all the years sback, and, until their artistic excellence secured for them attractive engagements with popular traveling troupes, Haywood's orchestras furnished the music for all dances in and around Raleigh and always had season engagements at the fashionable summer resorts.

We hardly think that the white people who hire Negro musicians and greatly perturbed. "Old Social Equality" has no terror for them. Their mothers and fathers danced to the strains of old Frank Johnson's Band in the days of yore. Their sons and their daughters are unafraid now.

We opine that Friend Wi-

cker, of the Herald, is in one of

his serio-comic moods and only intends to make us laugh.

**CAN'T SCARE COLORED
UNION PRESIDENT**

White Miners Want Colored Man to Say He is Not the Officer—Colored Men Standing by Their Brother Officer.

Richmond

Praco, Ala., July 28, 1917.—(Special to The Birmingham Reporter.)—That the white labor union is not friendly toward the colored man in the mines is shown by a report from Praco Mines just a few hours ago when a colored man was seriously intimidated by white men because of an office he is holding by election when whites and blacks met together and organized what is known as a United Mine Workers Union.

At this place the Negroes outnumbered the whites by a fine working majority, and they proceeded to put one of their members in as president defeating the white aspirant, and this has caused, as is reported, the white union men to begin their nefarious practices on the colored workmen. The situation is pathetic, heart rending and the indications are that trouble may be had.

Informant states that the colored man was elected president. He proceeded to exercise the functions of his office as president of such office. Those who claim to be his friends among the white labor union men advised him to quietly and submissively resign and let one of the white brethren have it. Mind you, it is stated the Negroes number three to one in that district. The colored brethren said; No, he didn't think he would do that; I am a miner just like you, only I have got the interest of my company and my people at heart, and we represent the work in this district, and I am not going to resign. Well, several committees went to him; he still refused and holds out with his colored brethren strongly behind him, supporting him in his well chosen office.

One of the white brethren said: "Jim, I want you to give that office up and let Mr. Smith have it."

"On what grounds must I do that?" asked the colored gentleman.

"Well, you know we white men are not going to let you preside over us nigger."

"Well, I know I am not going to resign."

Then came the threats and the intimidations by his white brethren.

"You are an impudent d— black s—of b—."

The colored man answered: "I don't know just why you say that, and I don't know that I am all the things you say I am, but there is one thing I do know—I am president of this local, and I'm not going to resign, white man. You need not to come to me any more about it. I have nothing in mind like resigning or what you want me to do."

Thus ends the first episode of Negroes associating with white folks.

JOURNAL

Boston, Mass.

MAR 23 1917

NEGRO'S STANDARD DECLARED HIGHER

Head of Master Builders
Praises Colored Race
as Workmen.

William H. Sayward, secretary and treasurer of the Master Builders' Association, at a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in Perkins hall, last night declared that colored workmen are not discriminated against by employers of labor in this part of the country.

"The colored race has little to complain of in this direction, judging from my own observation," he said. "They are away ahead of the whites in the matter of employment, in proportion to their numbers, and the white race today is on a standard far below that of the Negro in the matter of steady labor."

"The Negro makes a mistake in trying to overcome the prejudice against his race of a lot of cheap whites whose prejudice doesn't amount to anything anyway. He could put his time to much better advantage emulating the industry of most of his colored brothers. There are, of course, many of both colors who do not have employment because they are neither worthy of honor nor qualified for it."

"The main trouble nowadays is not so much with the color of a man's skin as with the trades unions who discriminate against the Negro because he cannot be handled with the same ease as is the case with his white brother."

Joseph P. Loud presided. The other speakers were John R. Bourne and Joseph Harris.

NEGROES JOIN UNION—Port Arthur, Tex., Oct. 10.—Officials of the local negro branch of the International Longshoremen's Association state that the local took in fifty-four negro longshoremen who had been working on open shop principles at this port. The officers of this local state that the white and negro unions have now enough members to take care of all the dock work at this port.

Organizing the Negro

NEW YORK CITY
JULY 1, 1917

During the past few years there has been a shifting of Negro labor from the South to the North and an increased competition between the white and colored worker. Recently there has been strife in the labor ranks because the white workers refused to work with the Negroes. The following editorial comment from the International Molders' Journal throws light on the molders' efforts to organize the Negro and make him a fellow unionist rather than an economic enemy.

PERHAPS the International Molders' union has had more experience in endeavoring to organize Negroes than any other metal working trade union organization.

Originally, because of the strong sentiment which existed in the South, where the Negro was principally employed, it was impossible to bring about that view of the problem in its industrial and economic aspect which was necessary before the white man in the South could see the necessity of organizing the Negro.

The first efforts made by officers of the Molders' union to organize the Negro in the Southern territory met

with the strongest opposition on the part of our members, and this was not surprising, in view of the sentiment which existed in the South. But time and the hard, unyielding logic of circumstances finally led to a change in opinion, some of the most prominent members of our organization in the South becoming open advocates of the policy of taking the Negro into the organization whenever he became qualified to work as a mechanic.

In the beginning, and the same holds true today to a very large extent, the Negro was suspicious of the union's intentions. He also believes that membership in the Molders' union might work to his disadvantage, because, should he become a union man, it would be less easy for him to secure employment, as the foundrymen, if forced to hire none but union men, would prefer white men to Negroes.

To some extent, the Negro may be justified in believing that this condition would exist, because the foundrymen, anxious to retain the cheaper, more docile, less independent Negro labor have told the Negroes, time and again, that if they joined the union they would be discharged and white molders employed in their places.

Unfortunately, the leaders of the Negro race have, up to the present time, assumed a position which has retarded any solution of the problem.

Some years ago, Booker T. Washington wrote a series of magazine articles relative to the Negro in industry, and in these he openly charged that the trade union movement had discriminated against the Negro and had made it impossible for the Negro to organize

effectively.

Official correspondence was entered into with Mr. Washington. The long struggle which the I. M. U. of N. A. had made to bring about a condition where the Negro molder could be brought into the Molders' union was presented to him, and, at the same time, he was given a complete history of what the International Molders' union had done, attention being called in particular to the attitude of suspicion and doubt which had been found to exist in the Negro molder's mind.

In view of the very earnest efforts which were being made by a number of the Southern molders to organize the Negroes, Mr. Washington was requested to make some statement approving of the policy of the Molders' union in initiating Negro molders so that this could be used in the campaign of organization which was being carried on.

When placed face to face with the question of assisting our organization to organize the Negro molders, Mr. Washington, for reasons which he did not give, failed to do anything or say anything which would in any way be helpful to our organization in its efforts to bring the Negro molder within its ranks.

We assume that one of the reasons was his fear that any words from him would cause him to lose the influence which he then held with those large industrial corporations who were employing Negro labor.

We are of the opinion that his desire was to have the Negro gradually work into the industries, so that membership of that race could become instead of common labor, feared that any words of comment on his part favoring trade union organization would cause such corporations to show less favor to Negro labor than they were doing.

Since Mr. Washington's death no leading representative of the Negro race has said or done anything which has come to our attention which would in any way encourage the Negro in industry to join the trade union of his craft, and it was for this reason that the molders' delegation at the last convention of the metal trades department introduced the measure which instructed the officers of the department to correspond with the recognized lead-

ers of the Negro race and convey to them the desire of the American trade union movement to bring about trade union organization among the Negroes, and to secure some definite statement from these leaders as to the attitude they would assume upon this question and the recommendations which they would make to the members of their race.

The question of organizing the Negro is not confined to the South today, for, during the last year or so, a large number of the Negroes have moved North, and, unfortunately, in more than one instance have come to work as strikebreakers.

During the past year Negro strikebreakers from the South have been employed to take the places of our members in Indianapolis, Ind.; Cleveland, Ohio; Norristown, Pa., and a number of other localities.

The Southern representatives of organized labor have to a large measure set aside the prejudice which existed in the past and are looking upon the subject from a broader and more practical viewpoint.

A short time ago the Labor World of Chattanooga, Tenn., in discussing the question, said in part:

"So long as the Negroes remain unorganized they will continue to be exploited and used to break down the standard of living of not only their own race, but of all men who are forced to compete with them in the industrial field. Efforts have been and are being made in Chattanooga to organize the colored men into the various trade unions, and the field here is ripe. Narrowminded race prejudice on either side should not be allowed to deter this good work.

"There has been much said in the press recently of the exodus to the north and east of colored laborers, and a great deal of maudlin sentiment has been expressed over the alleged mistreatment of the colored man when he goes elsewhere in order to secure sufficient wages to keep body and soul together. This solicitude is amusing to those who know conditions as they exist and who are aware that certain interests are especially anxious to keep this class of laborers here because they are more susceptible to exploitation than are white laborers who perform the same class of work, for the latter can more easily be organized."

The trade union movement is not concerned with the question of race, creed or color; it is deeply interested in the question of the workman's standard of living, and it clearly recognizes the fact that the all-important

economic question is the producer's standard. It is the fact that a man is competent to do certain work, and not his origin, which determines the question of his right and availability to become a member of a trade union.

WORKINGMEN'S WAGES RAISED

Industrial Plants And Railroad Terminals Agree To New

Wage Scale
Journal Guide
OYSTER PACKERS YIELD
10/20/17
Adopt Eight Pints Visible Sealed

Measure And Raise Pay Of Oyster Shuckers

Labor conditions among the industrial plants, railroad and steamship terminals of Norfolk are nearer normal now than they have been for several weeks past. In fact, so far as most of the larger transportation concerns and industrial plants are concerned conditions that now exist are satisfactory to both employers and employees.

It would not be out of place to say that these desirable conditions have been brought about by the Transportation Workers Association of Virginia. After organizing the seven or eight thousand longshoremen and other industrial laborers of this community the organization set about securing a living wage and more desirable working conditions for the men, and have practically succeeded in accomplishing their aims. The organization went about its work in a quiet, dignified, orderly manner, and the way these men unassisted, have brought the big industrial corporations to their terms, is wonderful indeed.

Sane And Tactful Leaders

Probably the most pleasing and satisfactory phase of the organization movement among the workingmen is that out of their own group have developed leaders with both judgment and vision. The president of the Transportation Workers Association is T. C. Skinner, a quiet, unassuming man, big of physique and having otherwise a commanding personality, but whose supreme virtue consists in be-

ing able to keep his business to himself. An outstanding figure in the great fight that has been waged here for better wages is James Bridgeford, chief organizer. Mr. Bridgeford wears a countenance that would be envied by the highest paid diplomat in the world. He has probably done more to adjust the earning capacity of workingmen of this section to living conditions than any man of his generation.

Tangible Work Done

A few months ago all that the truckers, storing men and hard laborers could earn on the terminals here was 17c to 22c per hour. Now the scale prevailing at the Old Dominion steamship piers, which may be taken as an example, is 25 and 30 cents between 7 a. m., and 6 p. m., and 30 and 35 cents for overtime, with the outlook very promising for an even better arrangement for night work. Last Saturday, Mr. Bridgeford states, truckers on the Old Dominion docks drew \$19 to \$22.00 and storing men \$25.00 to \$27.00 for their week's pay. He says that as a result of the readjustment of wages the Old Dominion has more than five hundred men at work and both employers and employees are satisfied.

Fertilizer Plant Increases Pay

Last week about 125 men employed at the Pinners Point plant of the Carolina Chemical Co., asked for a raise in pay equivalent to what other workers of the same class were receiving in this harbor. The management refused their demands and as a result the men quietly walked out on Monday, completely tying up operations at this plant. Tuesday the men were sent for and offered \$3.10 for a ten hour day, time-and-a-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and legal holidays, slightly more than they had asked for. They returned to work.

NO NEGRO LABORERS
SPRINGFIELD MASS REPU
AUGUST 28, 1917

American Woolen Company Denies C. L. U. Man's Assertion

In connection with a statement made by Edward F. McGrady, president of the Boston central labor union, that he had been informed the American woolen company was arranging to import 600 Porto Rican Negroes to work in the company's mills at Lawrence, the office of the company yesterday issued an announcement that there was no truth in the report. The company's statement characterized the idea of importing Negro labor as "offensive to the head of the company and the organization through out."

Labor - 1917

Unions and Strikes Equal Labor Distribution Will Erase Mason and Dixon Line

A Fair Trial in the North and Less Discrimination in the
South Will Wipe Out the Great Race Problem
of the United States.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE
JULY 21, 1917

By MARION WEINSTEIN.

FIVE THOUSAND negroes are crossing the Mason and Dixon line every week. During the past year some 400,000 have pulled up stakes to come northward. The promise of better wages, better schools and better living conditions has led to a general exodus, which threatens to present a new negro problem. What is the North, and more particularly the South, going to do about it?

The solution is a very simple matter, as the colored people see it. If the North will give them a fair trial as wage-earners, and if the South will purge itself of Jim Crow laws, lynching, unsanitary farms and other relics, negro labor will gravitate where it can do the country and itself the most good.

Meanwhile the negroes themselves are trying to do their share toward hastening that adjustment. They believe that regulated employment and balanced distribution will automatically remove most of their disabilities. In the present labor shortage they see their opportunity. So a progressive group have organized the first colored labor union, the Associated Colored Employees of America, with headquarters at 74 Cortlandt street.

This union is acting as the clearing house for negro labor throughout the country. It is acquainting negroes here South of the increased opportunities here and meeting the demands of employers. No fee is charged for this service; the union is supported by the dues of its members, who pay \$2 a year.

Branches will soon open their doors in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Detroit, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia. The aim is to distribute the negro workers so that no labor market will be clogged.

In the meantime, what is the South doing to check the exodus?

It has adopted a policy of prohibition, according to John A. Ross, the president of the new union and a graduate of New York University. Laws have been passed, he says, forbidding the negro to leave. It is an offense for colored workers to receive passage from northern employers, and every effort is made to prevent them from buying tickets themselves. If three or more negroes are found near the agent's window they are arrested on a charge of vagrancy, which means six months' labor on the county road.

WALKING TO FREEDOM.

But the negroes find means of leaving when they have made up their minds to go. They walk from station to station, until they see a chance to get a ticket.

Once up North the negro finds a real demand for his work, especially of the common labor variety. He is the new immigrant. Shipbuilding and munitions making need him most. It is not un-

common for steel companies to bring up 1,000 negroes, and one munition plant in New Jersey is preparing to get 15,000. During the recent rush season some 700 colored women were recruited to the garment trades.

New fields are opening, too, in the mechanical industries. Business and the professions have been letting down their color bars. The Mexican situation gave many negroes a chance to prove their value in the vacancies left by the national guard. Negroes with degrees from Tuskegee and northern universities can now hope to do more than run elevators and carry baggage.

The union is prepared to supply plenty of agricultural labor and thus help to solve the food problem. It will try to open the many abandoned farms throughout New England and in New York state.

On the southern farm, Mr. Ross points out, the negro cannot contribute his maximum. He's too unhappy. He lives under the most unsanitary conditions, suffers from the white man's "color-phobia," and sees little prospect of better days for his children. Their education, which the negro is beginning to realize is of the first importance, is limited to three months' schooling a year under the poorest paid colored teachers.

LOYAL SERVANTS.

Of course, white laborers are bound to suffer in certain sections because the negro works for lower wages. But this condition is a temporary one. Mr. Ross declares, similar to the immediate effects of women's entrance into industry. As soon as the negro finds himself, he will demand equal pay, and as the white men learn he can depend upon his colored help, he will appreciate them more.

Mr. Ross has good news, too, for home makers in New York and vicinity. During the next twelve months he expects some 25,000 southern cooks and domestics to arrive. They have been receiving \$2.50 or \$3 weekly for their work. They will, of course, expect better pay, but little more than half decent treatment will keep them loyal to their em-

ployers. These colored women look with little favor upon factory work, and will only be too glad to remain in northern homes.

Reports from large companies employing hundreds of negroes show that they are making good. One from a factory, where 1,100 out of 14,000 employees are colored, is typical. The negroes, the superintendent says, have been found to be "careful, industrious, obedient, cheerful, sober and patient." Their "dependability" scores only 50 per cent, so far and "tardiness and slowness" are their main weaknesses.

"We could help the South become prosperous," Mr. Ross says, "if it would only let us. Half a chance and only fair treatment are all we ask. But it offers us only a vague promise of better school conditions sometime next year. 'Why, the South is wasting its best energy and ability in oppressing us."

UNEQUAL LABOR DISTRIBUTION.

"I think the whole trouble is due to our unequal distribution, which we have now set out to correct. There is always more prejudice against us where we live in large numbers. In Russia and other European countries where there are few of us, we are treated with courtesy and respect. In France negroes hold important posts in the army and navy. There are too many negroes in the South, where they equal the white population. Ten millions of the twelve millions in this country are huddled down there.

"If the policy of southern segregation and oppression should prevail in the United States, this country will have its own Sinn Feiners when the negro population increases from twelve to twenty millions."

The negroes ask to be treated as Americans, Mr. Ross explains. Unlike thousands of Americans, this is the only country they know, yet they have always been considered hyphenates. They want a plain square deal, without any favors. "Let us rise or fall as men," they plead.

The United States government, the union finds, recognizes existing prejudice. Discrimination is practiced against negroes who qualify for civil positions. Recently an expert accountant who had been asked to report for duty in Washington was denied appointment. He was told it would embarrass the government if a negro took part in a food survey for the Federal Trade Commission.

"I am too loyal an American citizen," the negro told the commission, "to embarrass the United States government when it is fighting for democracy and the President is asking every American to make sacrifices for the cause."

Perhaps nothing better explains the attitude of the negroes than the tone of an editorial in the New York "News," one of their own weeklies. "The colored people," it says in part, "believing in the Providence of creation, hope, as it seems, sometimes almost against hope, biding their time, keeping their souls sweet, patiently waiting the day when all will get a fair field and no favors."

**FREIGHT HANDLERS
LAY AN EMBARGO
ON CARS AND SHIPS**

NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE
SEPTEMBER 21, 1917

Strike Ties Up Commerce of Port and Throws Many Workmen Out.

The one big development in the strike situation on the levee Thursday—the actual strike of the freight handlers—was discounted by the announcement made by Albert Paul, president of that organization, in The Times-Picayune.

A joint meeting of the two associations of longshoremen was held in the longshoremen's hall, Saratoga street and Jackson avenue in the morning. It is said the meeting was intended to afford an opportunity for the committees carrying on negotiations with the stevedores to explain to the members what they had done. The meeting expressed its confidence in its representatives and indorsed their reports, but transacted no other business.

The strike tied up the unloading of cars from Stuyvesant Docks to Louisa street. A man named Benedetto, who has charge of unloading at Louisa street, told Albert Paul he would pay the scale demanded for unloading the cars under his charge, and Paul said these cars would doubtless be unloaded. Benedetto cannot sign the scale because he is not a contractor. He is employed by an independent line, but he is willing to pay the wages demanded for his company.

Albert Paul said the situation last night was decidedly roseate for the union, and the members could not see the least prospect of defeat. Asked about holding cars on the Belt line while waiting to be unloaded, Paul said the railroads would not suffer because they would charge demurrage. He was told that this would not put the cars into use for carrying the commerce of the country. We admitted this was unfortunately true, and thought the government or some other agency should do something about it. The demands of the freight handlers he considered reasonable, in view of the cost of living and their arduous work; and he thought public sentiment should demand of the contractors that they pay living wages. If the men were kept out of work for any length of time, he said, the better class of laborers would leave for other cities where they could get better wages, and the least fit would be left to do the work of this port.

While only two classes of labor are on strike other classes are affected. The cotton teamsters have no work to do because the presses will not send cotton to the wharves. The screwmen cannot work because there is no cotton to be delivered to them. The cotton yard men, the coal wheelers and stove classifiers are all idle.

STRIKERS KEEP AWAY

The striking longshoremen kept away from the river front Thursday and so did the freight handlers, both organizations leaving the situation entirely in the hands of their officers.

Nothing definite regarding arbitration developed Thursday, though there was much talk of appeal to the National Adjustment Commission, with the expectation that it would refer the dispute to the local adjustment board. It is for

this reason, it is said, Mayor Behrman has taken no steps toward getting the opposing sides together.

The New Orleans Steamship Association Thursday received the following letter from the executive committee of the Stevedores and the Longshoremen's Benevolent Society and the Longshoremen's P. U. B. Association:

"New Orleans, Sept. 20, 1917.

"Mr. S. T. DeMilt, President New Orleans Steamship Association.

"Gentlemen: We have received your communication dated September 19, 1917; beg leave to answer the same as we have taken the matter up with the contracting stevedores at your solicitation.

"We beg to advise your association that we will continue whatever negotiations are carried on in the future with the same committee. Yours respectfully,

"E. WILLIMAN, Secretary;

"H. KEEGAN, President."

To this communication, Mr. DeMilt sent this reply:

"New Orleans, Sept. 20, 1917.

"Mr. H. Keegan, President, Mr. E. Williams, Secretary, Executive Committee Stevedores' and Longshoremen's Benevolent Society and Longshoremen's P. U. B. Association, New Orleans, La.

"Gentlemen: We are in receipt of your communication, this date, in which you state that you will conduct whatever negotiations are carried on in the future with respect to a new contract only with the contracting stevedores at this port.

"In view of the fact that your conferences during the past ten days with the stevedores' committee, authorized by steamship agents, members of this association, to conduct negotiations with your organizations, have resulted in a failure to agree, the steamship agents, as principals in all of the matters in dispute, concluded to terminate and did on yesterday terminate, the agency whereby the stevedores were to act for them, thereby exercising an unquestioned right in such matters.

"You are, therefore, again urged as per the letter from this association, of yesterday, to instruct the members of your associations to return to work immediately at the scale of wages as stated in our yesterday's letter, and subject to terms and proposals as set forth in that letter.

"As previously suggested, the steamship agents, members of this association, are ready to present their side of the case before the Local Adjustment Commission, appointed by the National Adjustment Commission, Washington, D. C., which is now organized and ready to act and we call upon you likewise to submit your case to this commission.

"In conclusion, we are compelled again to urge upon you the manifest fact that the public interest demands that your members return to work, at the increased pay, pending the determination of the matter by the local commission. Yours truly,

"ST. DEMILT,

"President New Orleans Steamship Association."

DE MILT DISCUSSES STRIKE

Discussing the situation Thursday night Mr. De Milt said:

"The statement accredited to Albert Workman, president of the Longshoremen's Association, and which appeared in today's newspapers, gives a very correct impression of the points at issue in the negotiation of the new contract. In presenting their terms for a new contract the longshoremen have not by any means been content with the demands for 25 per cent increase in wages. They have a long list of nearly thirty rules to govern work, which in some respects are almost as important as the rate of wages.

"Some of these rules would unquestionably drive away important trades to other ports; such trades as coffee, nitrate of soda and pyrites would be undoubtedly affected, not so much by the rate of wages as by the rules governing the work. Among other things they demand that labor cease at 3:30 Saturday afternoon. They add another holiday to the

eight already in their contract. The also demand that work shall cease 5 o'clock on every other week day Saturday. They further demand an increased number of men in the holds, in some cases where the men would have to stand by idle and look on. The net result of their new rules would be to cut off nearly fifty days' work in the year.

"They demand more men for the same work and fewer hours of work at a time when labor is extremely scarce. If the ship agents yield to this demand they will not only distinctly prejudice the port with the authorities who are controlling for nage at the present time, undoubtedly drying much more tonnage away from the port, but they will be yielding to a distinctly unpatriotic demand. Any effort to reduce the supply of labor when there is an imperative demand must be detrimental to the country.

The ship agents, on the other hand, are the first recognized the justice of demand for higher wages during the stence of war time prices and readily read to grant 25 per cent. has been granted by almost any other port in the country. The men are not content to have a contract during the war or for to twelve months thereafter, but are deavoring to fix on the ship agents contract at war time prices for five ars to come. The ship agents do not lieve that they have the right to tie the interests of the port in this manner.

"But the most objectionable action of the longshoremen is that of calling all the men off from all the ships at a oment's notice yesterday afternoon. They know perfectly well that the government authorities at Washington have appointed a National Adjustment Commission and that there is a local adjustment commission to work under them. otwithstanding, under their unfortunate leadership, they utterly disregard the ship agents' request that they continue work, and leave the settlement of all points in dispute to this National Adjustment Commission, through a local commission at New Orleans.

"Once more the workmen of our strongest competitor, the port of Galveston, have shown greater consideration for the aderal interests of the public than have our own men, for they agreed yesterday to continue work and leave the dispute between them and their employers to settlement by the local adjustment commission. This is what the ship agents want the longshoremen here to do."

LABOR LEADER N. SIMS

SEPTEMBER 14, 1917
Pay Speaker Before Negro Packing House Employees Has No Authority.

Organized labor officials to-day repudiated M. Sims, who appeared last night before the American Negro Protective League and in behalf of the American Federation of Labor urged about 100 negro employees of the packing houses to join the new union of stockyards workers. The meeting was held at 3458 Forest avenue. It voted unanimously against organization, as proposed by Sims, and he was hooted during his talk.

"Sims has no authority as an organizer and is discredited in the labor movement," said Emmett Flood, in charge of the local office of the American Federation of Labor. "When the conscription law was discussed at a meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor Sims made a speech saying he would never be conscripted, because he would be shot first. He was told that the negro race would be slaves to-day if the conscripts drafted by Abraham Lincoln hadn't finished the civil war with victory for the north."

C. F. Peters, business agent of the Flat Janitors' union and a Spanish war veteran, declared to-day that Sims was disowned by the Tanner camp of Spanish war veterans following his anticonscription talk.

To Begin Organizing Colored Workers in the South

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

White Delegates From Dixie Favor Move

COLORED MEN PRESENT

Convention Is Told by Southern White Men that Race Prejudice of White Trade Unionists No Longer Exists.

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE)

BUFFALO, N. Y. — Negro labor has been recognized by the American Federation of Labor, and the federation has decided to organize the colored workingman. A step to take in southern Negroes in large numbers will at once be inaugurated, and the plan is heartily endorsed by white delegates from the Southland.

White southern delegates to the convention are very much in favor of the movement, Delegate King of Alabama seconded the motion on the resolution to organize the colored workers. He declared that prejudice against the Negro worker was dying out in the South and that the great migrations of colored laborers from the North to the South was uneconomic.

The majority of delegates believe that recognition of Negro labor by the American Federation of Labor will prevent massacres and riots such as occurred in East St. Louis, Ill.

The decision to maintain a friendly attitude to Negro labor was decided upon at Monday's session of the federation, and the following resolutions introduced by delegates from the Helpers' and Laborers' Union, No. 15,566, was unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the American Federation of Labor stands for strength and protection by concentrating its power through organized forces into unionized labor, and since more effectual work might be accomplished through certain agencies by reason of intimate and social relations, and

Whereas, the colored laborers

and helpers throughout the Southeastern district are not familiar with the labor movement as they should be, especially upon the different railroads of the Southeastern territory; and

Whereas, there are fifteen different railroads in the district; and

Whereas, There are only four colored locals on these fifteen roads, two on the Seaboard, one on the Atlantic Coast Line, and one on the Norfolk and Western; and

Whereas, We feel and believe that a colored organizer, because of his racial and social relations among his people, could accomplish much in organizing the forces into unions; and

Whereas, There is a union in our city (Portsmouth) known as the Transportation Working Men's Association, with a membership of 1,800, meeting in the same hall we are, and since so many of our men are falling in line with them; therefore be it

Resolved, That it be the sense of the convention to recommend the appointment of a railroad man (colored) as organizer for the territory as above mentioned.

Negroes Address Convention.

For the first time in history Negro delegates addressed the convention, asking that their ranks be organized. The Federation voted to appoint an organizer under a special department to do this work in all sections of the country.

Delegate Battle, colored, stated, after the adoption of the resolution, that some 15,000 colored laborers and helpers in the employ of the shop departments of the railroads in the Southeastern district could be secured for union membership. There are more than 3,000 on the Seaboard system alone. These men are the more ready to organize under the Federation, since under the recent agreement between the Railway Employees' Department of the A. F. L. and the Southeastern group of railroads the latter gave to the white helpers 8½ per cent. increase in pay, and to the colored helpers only 4 per cent.

White helpers got back pay, so far as the increase was concerned, for the period from March 1 to August. No back pay was given the colored helpers. In Rocky Mount there are 400 of the colored helpers on strike, demanding the same increase as was given their white fellow-workers. Curiously enough, the colored men were, in part at least, organized and affiliated with the Federation, while many of the white helpers were unorganized.

NORFOLK OYSTER SHUCKERS STRIKE

Four Hundred Employees Of Oyster Plants Ask For

Higher Wages

WOMEN'S CASE UNSETTLED Failure To Recognize Union Causes Continued Hold-out Of Tobacco Stemmers

The oyster shuckers of Norfolk, about four hundred strong, declared a strike Monday last, after certain wage demands had been refused by the various oyster packers of the city. As a result of the strike practically every oyster house in the city was without labor.

Some time in August the men requested an increase in pay from 20c for 8 pints to 25c, with an additional increase of 5c for all oysters opened between 5 p. m., and 7 a. m. They also requested that the pails be placed so that the men could see them from top to bottom. The oystermen were given until September 15th to comply with the requests of the men but failed to do so. After repeated attempts to have the matter adjusted had failed the men walked out Monday morning.

Will Insist Upon Wage Increase

According to Organizer Bridgeport of the Transportation Workers Association of Virginia, with which the oyster shuckers are affiliated, the men will not return to work until their demands for increased wages are met. Mr. Bridgeport stated that the men had been provided with work at Lambert's Point and the Old Dominion piers at 25 and 30 per hour and 30 and 35 cents for over time work.

Old Dominion Raises Pay.

The Transportation Workers Association made formal request upon the Old Dominion Steamship Company recently for increased pay for longshoremen and the Company granted the raise asked for.

The government and the principal transportation companies have all recognized the Transportation Workers Association of Virginia, said Mr. Bridgeport, and the few minor concerns that had refused to do so were not helping their labor troubles. All of them would eventually have to recognize the Association as practically all the workers in every branch of industry in the State were being organized under it. He said that the Association was making no unreasonable demands upon the employers of any class of labor, but merely interested in seeing that they received a living wage.

Organize Men At Tobacco Factory

The men employed at the plant of the American Cigar Co., have followed

the lead of the women and formed a local of the Transportation Workers Association. This company still refuses to recognize the union and the women have not returned to work. It was reported in last week's issue of this paper that the differences at the factory had been settled and that the women would return to work, but a hitch occurred in the proceedings somewhere and the stemming department is still idle. It is probable that the men will now walk out in sympathy for the women.

FREIGHT HANDLERS ACCEPT CONTRACT

Advance of a Dollar a Day for Laborers Will Be Given in New Scale.

NEW ORLEANS, LA. (AP) OCTOBER 2, 1917

The expired contract between screwmen and ship agents and stevedores is to be renewed for three years at an advance in wages of \$1 a day for the laborers, and there are no points of difference remaining. The contract will be signed Wednesday in all probability, and there will be no trouble on the levee in connection with handling cotton and round freight. The screwmen are to receive \$31 a day per gang—\$6 for four men and \$7 for the foreman. The old contract expired September 15, and since then the screwmen have been working under the new scale, which is an advance of \$5 a gang, or \$1 for each man a day.

The two organizations of screwmen, whites and negroes, met Sunday and smoothed away difficulties to meet the views of the employers, and Monday there was a conference between the two parties in the maritime branch of the Board of Trade. The steamship agents were represented by Messrs. Ross, Hendren and Warriner. The stevedores by Terence Smith and George Kent, and the two screwmen's organizations by committees. The whole matter was discussed and an agreement entered into on the terms mentioned.

The scale of the coal trimmers was also agreed upon Monday, the demands of the union men being conceded. Phil Pearson, Ike Holmes and Ernest Wilson, represented local No. 45 of the coal trimmers and rollers, reported that they had visited all merchants and all had signed the scale. The trimmers have heretofore been getting 40 cents an hour and 70 cents for overtime. Under the new scale they get 50 cents an hour and 80 cents for overtime.

Negroes Thank City for Abolishing Fisk School

NEW ORLEANS, LA. (AP) SEPTEMBER 30, 1917

Appreciation of the act of the public school board in abolishing the Fisk school, located in the negro restricted district, and transferring the children to McDonogh No. 13, has been expressed in resolutions adopted by negro members affiliated with the Central Labor union, American Federation of Labor.

Condemnation of the protest and protestants against the action of the school board also was expressed. Signing the resolution were T. P. Woodward, president, and C. P. Beck, recording secretary.

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes UNIONS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE FRIENDLY INTEREST IN NEGRO WORKERS.

Signs are multiplying that Negro workingmen are getting a more sympathetic hearing from their white brothers, who have been for years fortifying and protecting their interests by the labor unions.

The East St. Louis riots, caused principally by the introduction of Negroes, who did not know where they were going, by unscrupulous employers to break a strike of white men, has awakened the unions to the necessity of opening the doors to the Negro.

Furthermore, they appreciate that the thousands of black men who are coming from the South to seek work in the North at better wages and better hours, must be approached in a friendly spirit in order to prevent him becoming the victim of the wiles of the scab herder and strike-breaking agency.

Leading in this friendly attitude toward the Negro appear to be the leaders of the International Molders' union, one of the first organizations in the metal trade to change its policy. There are thousands of Negro molders in the South who are good union men, of which the molders are proud.

But this process has to gain considerable headway before the black man will get equal footing with the white man in the more aristocratic labor unions.

There are many unions in New York in which the colored man is welcome. The sandhogs, those men who do the dangerous work in digging the tubes which connect the subways of the city under the East river, are mostly powerful blacks who risk their lives and limbs cheerfully in return for little better than average wages.

The Tunnel and Subway Constructors union, of over 10,000 men, has a big contingent of Negro workmen; so have the Stationary and Eccentric Firemen's unions and the various teamsters' locals in this city.

The largest union in the American Federation of Labor, the United Mine Workers, has thousands of men who hold union cards and who are thorough union men in every sense, who are members of the black race.

The Asphalt Pavers' union of Chicago is composed entirely of Negroes, and it is one of the best labor organizations in the city. A local of the Musicians' union, No. 208, composed entirely of colored men in that city, is a bona fide organization and militant in the cause of labor.

The Chicago Flat Janitors' union has more than 7,000 men, of whom fully 5 per cent are colored. All these are signs that some day all the bars against the colored workers will come down.

EAST ST. LOUIS UNIONS WERE COLD TO NEGROES

CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY SHOWS

INDUSTRIAL WEAKNESSES.

Though Persecuted as Strike-Breakers, Colored Men Had Difficulty in Joining Organized Labor Bodies.

[Special Correspondence of the Evening Post.]

St. Louis, October 27.—Branching out from the initial question of interstate commerce and the relations between the races, the Congressional committee which is in session in East St. Louis has broached the tributary subject of industrial adjustment. Discussion of the riots of May and July have brought out the fact that the negro laborer, while persecuted for being a strike-breaker, has had difficulty in obtaining admittance to most of the unions.

Skilled mechanics among the negro race in East St. Louis have been compelled to work as unskilled laborers, for the reason that they were not admitted to the unions of the skilled workmen. When attempting to carry on their trades outside the union organization, they are threatened and intimidated. The result is that while as competent as their white brother workers, they are forced to retreat to the ranks of unskilled labor in order to survive.

The policy of the Congressional committee has been to summon witnesses from all classes in its effort to obtain a clear understanding of the problem it has in hand. Employer and employee, manufacturer and day laborer, civil and military authorities have been summoned to the inquiry.

Representative Foster, a member of the committee from Illinois, was a member of the Congressional committee which investigated the Colorado coal strike in 1913, prior to the investigation by the Industrial Relations Committee, of which Frank P. Walsh was chairman.

NO WELFARE WORK.

Feeling that there should be a community of responsibility in a large indus-

trial centre such as East St. Louis, the committee has asked each representative of the local industries who has appeared before the investigation, what provision was made by the various plants for the recreation and advantage of their employees. Aside from shower-bath equipments and coffee-rooms for both races within the plants, no concern has taken steps for the social welfare of its employees.

The hundreds of rural colored folk, coming for, perhaps, the first time to a city, upon their arrival in East St. Louis, have been left to the mercy of pool parlors, dive keepers, lawless saloons, and extortionate real-estate dealers. The rate of rentals in East St. Louis is triple that charged for the same accommodations in the States further south.

Intelligent negroes of East St. Louis, who are interested in achieving impartial adjustment of the races, point out as a still existent cause for race dissension the fact that many of the negro laborers leave their work, which, in many of the large plants, is of necessity disagreeably unclean, in a condition which is offensive to the other patrons of the street cars on which they are forced to ride in order to reach their homes. While the same is true of the white laborer—Lithuanian, Turk, and Armenian—race antagonism makes resentment of the negro's personal state a matter of more immediate concern. It is hoped that the manufacturers will give this and other similar questions their attention in the effort that will be made to bring East St. Louis to a state of normal functioning.

Asked for their solution of the race problem in East St. Louis, the heads of the various plants have advocated segregation. Asked for a solution of the larger industrial question, which includes the problem of the negro as well as of the white laborer, the employers have declared themselves unable to give an answer. They maintain their right to keep open shop, and the right of each employee to get as much as he can for his work. They have denied any arrangement of wage scale among themselves.

IDENTICAL WAGE SCALES.

"It is very strange," said a member of the Committee to one witness. "You have a wage scale, and Swift has a wage scale, and Armour has a wage scale, and Morris has a wage scale, and all are identical. How can unorganized labor get its rights from a combination of employers?"

Adjutant-Gen. Frank O. Dickson, of Springfield, Ill., assured the Committee that, in the case of East St. Louis, the militia was not used to protect the unorganized workers employed by the large plants to continue their operations in the face of extensive strikes. Adjutant-Gen. Dickson reached East St. Louis on the night of July 2, after the riots had taken place, and at once assumed command of the military forces. Prior to that, Col.

S. O. Tripp had been the ranking officer on the ground.

Col. Tripp testified to the committee that upon his arrival in East St. Louis on the morning of July 2, Mayor Mollman, who is still Mayor of East St. Louis, had told him he was not feeling well, and had been advised not to go out that day. He appointed Thomas Fekete, City Attorney, to act in his place.

Col. Clayton, who had so successfully handled the riot situation in May, came at once to East St. Louis from St. Louis upon hearing of the trouble on the morning of July 2, but, considering himself second in command to Col. Tripp, did not take command of the militia. Col. Tripp, from his testimony, showed that he regarded himself as being present in an administrative capacity only. The Mayor had abdicated, and Col. Tripp, the officer in charge, seemed unable to cope with the situation.

Col. Tripp testified that he spent the morning of July 2, from the time of his arrival at eight o'clock in the morning until after twelve, in the City Hall, mapping out a "plan of campaign" by which the city might be restored to order. He then spent an hour in eating his lunch.

During the time that Col. Tripp was mapping out the plan of campaign, shooting occurred within a few blocks of the City Hall, and while he was eating his lunch, three men were killed three blocks away. All during the morning there had been beatings, and attacks from the mob in various parts of the town.

A CAUSTIC COMMENT.

When Col. Tripp told the committee that he consumed the entire morning in planning a campaign, Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, commented, "You could have planned half the battle of Verdun in that time."

Of the companies of militia which were straggling into East St. Louis during the day, few were properly equipped. Ammunition was scarce among them, a fact the mob was not slow to discover. A third of the men had seen border service, a third had been enlisted a few months, and the remaining third had been enlisted only a few days. Numbers of them came from adjoining counties, which shared the sentiments entertained by St. Clair County, in which East St. Louis is located, toward the negro race.

When Adj.-Gen. Dickson left the stand, after telling the committee of his manner of taking command, upon his arrival, a member of the committee said to him: "General, I wish you had been here on the morning of July 2."

East St. Louis has had for some time on her police force eight colored men. Several of these are plain-clothes men. Two of the negro policemen told the committee that they had been ordered not to report on the morning of July 2, but to stay in hiding. Each of these men

said he would willingly have risked his life to assist in quelling the mob, but they were ordered to stay in hiding. The members of their race were fleeing, and they did not know what course to pursue. They took their families and went to St. Louis.

John E. Eubanks, an officer who was allowed to stay on duty because of his light color, saved a number of women and children's lives by taking them under his guard to the bridge, where they crossed to St. Louis.

Otto Nelson, a plain-clothes man, reported for duty on the morning of July 2, and was sent on his regular rounds. Later in the day, passing near his own home, he found depredations had been committed in the neighborhood, and calling to make his hourly report to headquarters, he was told to remain at home and protect his wife. Several colored neighbors came in to be protected, until the gathering in Nelson's house numbered almost a dozen. With the exception of one other man, the party was composed of women.

MOB ATTACKED HOUSE.

His house was fired into during the day, and at six in the evening the mob attacked it. The windows were broken with stones, and revolver shots were fired into the house. Seeing soldiers in the mob, Nelson started to open the door, when his wife called to him that the soldiers were acting with the mob and not against it.

The women of the party were placed under the beds for protection. In the meantime, the streets to the rear had been set on fire, and the flames were rapidly getting nearer. With the mob in front and the fire to the rear, Nelson did not know what to do with his party. Finally a voice in the mob cried out, "Let's go to Third Street"—a distance of some blocks from Nelson's house. As soon as the mob was a short distance away, and the house next door had caught fire, Nelson started to take his party from the place.

Taking his wife in his arms, he started down the back stairs, followed by the rest of the party. They found the staircase from adjoining counties, which Nelson jumped from the upper stairs to the ground. His wife's dress caught in the flames as he did so. Stopping long enough to extinguish the blazing skirts, they hurried to a field lot some blocks away, and hid themselves in the weeds. In a few moments their home was on fire. They remained secreted in this place until ten o'clock, when they crept fur-

**We are Sitting on a Seething
Volcano of Labor Trouble
Which is Liable to Explode
Any Minute, Just as It Did**

In East St. Louis—A National Colored Labor Organization Is the Only Thing That Can Head It Off.

The Kansas City Sun.
A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO LABORERS WILL BE ORGANIZED ON LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPT. 2nd, 1917. A CARD WILL BE ISSUED TO EACH MEMBER.

A Certificate of Incorporation Will Be Applied for Immediately After Organization Is Formed, Making the Order a National Concern.

By Rucker Smith.

It has been wisely suggested that we have our BIG labor meeting on Labor Day. A very appropriate time to make a start towards uniting our scattering forces into a gigantic national organization. We American Negroes stand in a class by ourselves, while we belong to the working class, we are not accepted into labor unions, and the employers of labor want us to work only when they can get us cheaper. We are never promoted, and, if we should be permitted to do something besides drudgery, it would cause the stampede of all the white workers, and might precipitate a bloody race riot. There is only one thing left for us to do, in order to get our share of the wealth we create, and to be able to enjoy freedom in its fullness, we must organize ourselves against both the capital and hostile labor unions.

The Negro business men have several splendid well developed organizations to protect themselves and we, the working class, have been neglecting our own interest boosting them. Just imagine the bankers, doctors, druggists, undertakers and lawyers dictating to the working class of the white race. Do they even attempt to dictate to their workers? No. How can we depend upon our professional and business men to help us; they cannot do it if they wanted to, we must help ourselves. Here is our plan of organization: We shall on Labor Day, September 2d, 1917, organize what shall be known as the National Council of Colored Workers. Kansas City shall be for the time being, our National headquarters. After we form an organization here, we shall organize a council in all of the principal cities of the United States immediately, here by connecting ourselves into one great industrial body, which shall be recognized by our friends and enemies

alike, as a great force to be delt with. Every one I talk with says such an organization is necessary now if you believe this, why hold back, come out and help; be a pioneer; come to see the birth of a new order, which means the dawn of a brighter day, not only for the worker, but for the entire race if sticking together is what is needed, as I have always heard, then this organization is just the thing, because it will draw us together; once in working shape, it will reach wherever a member of the race is found. We shall secure an empty building some where on East Eighteenth street between Troost avenue and Woodland. Watch the Sun for location. Any question you would like to ask concerning the organization will be cheerfully answered by Rucker Smith, 557 Grand avenue. Kansas City, Mo.

NEGRO TEAMSTERS DECLINE OFFER OF EMPLOYERS

NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE
SEPTEMBER 4, 1917
**Draymen Hold Two Futile
Conferences With Cotton
Exchange Committee.**

The opinion was generally expressed Monday by men who are considered leaders in labor circles in New Orleans that there would be no extension of the teamsters and loaders' strike on the river front. But it is especially significant that the unvarying basis of this opinion was that the demands of the laborers for increased wages would be conceded.

Nothing was accomplished at the conferences held with the committee of the Cotton Exchange Monday. The morning meeting at 10 o'clock was to hear what the draymen had to say about the counter proposition submitted by the Cotton Exchange committee, relative to the scale to be paid on the carriage of cotton by the presses. The draymen were not ready to come to an agreement, and a meeting was held in the afternoon. There was still a disinclination on the part of the draymen to agree, it being apparent that they first desired to know what would be the outcome of the demand of their employees, the teamsters and loaders.

The situation is this: The teamsters and loaders have struck for an advance from \$2.80 daily to \$4. The teamsters are all negroes and they express the utmost confidence that their demand will be granted. They assert with confidence their jobs cannot be filled, and that the draymen would not think of putting green hands in charge of the teams. They are not disposed to listen to any proposition, except that which they have submitted as a basis of settlement. It is an unmistakable symptom of the trouble as a whole that the dominant factor is the negro laborer. The whites are disposed to talk compromise, but the negroes are opposed unalterably to anything of the sort. Perhaps the strongest labor organization in the city is that of the negro screwmen, and this body is as fixed in its

ideas as the teamsters and loaders. Its members believe that heretofore they have received scant consideration from the white men in the same line and are determined to assert themselves. They show a lack of confidence in their own officers, and until the present situation arose they looked upon Thomas Harrison, president of the white screwmen's association, as the one man whom they could rely on. They still have a high opinion of Mr. Harrison, but his influence has diminished because of his conservatism. A labor leader said Monday Mr. Harrison had undoubtedly lost influence among the negroes by asserting that there would be no strike on the river front. The negro screwmen thought the time was not propitious for such talk, and their faith in Mr. Harrison had weakened in consequence.

The demand of the longshoremen and screwmen submitted Monday called for an increase of \$1 a day, hours and systems of work to remain as at present. They also demand that the quarter day plan which obtains at Chalmette and other points beyond the city limits shall be extended to the city also. That is to say, if a crew of laborers is called to go to work at 7 a. m. and the ship is not at the wharf ready to receive freight and they are told to return at 9 o'clock and are actually put to work at 9:30 o'clock they shall be paid for the first quarter of the day, from 7 to 9:30. It is proposed that they shall handle the same amount of cotton under the new scale as under that now terminating, that is to say, 180 bales of loose and ninety bales of compressed cotton a gang.

At present the situation turns on the condition caused by the strike of the teamsters and loaders. These men are confident they cannot be displaced, and, if their judgment in this respect is unsound, and others can be found to handle the teams, a serious situation is threatened. The teamsters are connected with the Dock and Cotton Council, to which the longshoremen and screwmen also belong, and members of these two organizations admit they would not be able to handle freight delivered at the wharves by non-union teamsters. It would seem, therefore, that the draymen are well advised to await a settlement of their differences with their employees before they agree to a new scale with the presses.

The commodities involved in the strike so far are, chiefly, cotton and tobacco. These two classes of goods are bulky and cumbersome and are handled exclusively by the teamsters and screwmen's organizations. Other classes of freight generally are handled by the freight handlers, an entirely separate union. If the strike should extend by reason of the longshoremen and screwmen refusing to handle cotton and tobacco hauled to the wharves by non-union teamsters it would not involve other classes of freight, with some uncommon exceptions.

The meeting of the Dock and Cotton Council, which was to be held at Screwmen's Hall Monday night, was not held. The hall was dark and the janitor said there would be no meeting. He said one had been announced in the morning paper, but that the afternoon papers carried a correction. While this was true, it was nevertheless a fact that labor leaders at the picnic at Southern Park Monday afternoon were advised that the council would meet at the hall at 7:30 o'clock.

National Council of Colored Workers Was Organized Labor Day.

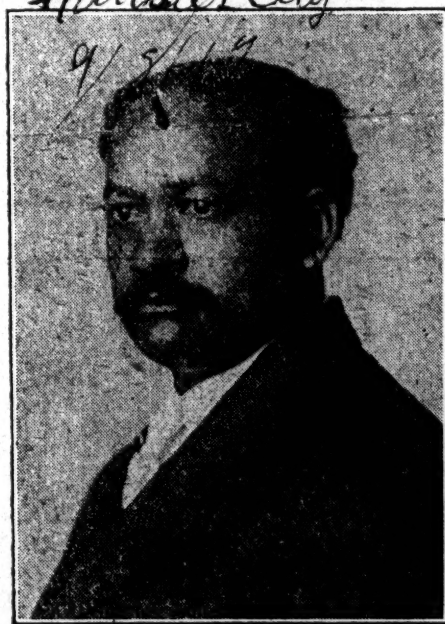
WE SHALL SOON BE IN A POSITION TO RAISE THE STAND-

DARD OF COLORED LABOR.

A Class Conscious Organization Was Formed to Study Working Conditions of the Race.

By Rucker Smith.

Seventeen stalwart, earnest, sober men, amidst the clamor of a jolly, uproarious labor day celebration, harkened to the call of duty to their race. Clean-cut, determined men. Such men as these all nations admire. We must have them, or else civilization would perish from the earth. The pioneer has always carried the lighted torch



to pilot races out of the way of darkness into the light of understanding. Yes, the National Council of Colored Workers is no longer a dream, but a reality. In a short time we shall be known throughout the nation as a factor to be respected.

It will take a few weeks to complete our organization here; in the meantime, we shall be getting ready to go into other fields. Our greatest work has just begun. We shall not falter. This organization must go. We invite men of all branches of labor to join us; we need you and you need us.

We shall meet at Mr. Charles A. Starks' News Stand, 1521 E. 18th St., next Sunday, 9th of September, at 3 p. m.

MINISTERS MAKE VISIT
NOVEMBER 2, 1917
Negro Workers and Organized Labor
One development of the recent gathering of the American federation of labor at Buffalo is of national interest. For the first time the labor unions declared themselves ready to place the colored workmen upon an equal basis with white workers. This attitude is expected to have large value as a deterrent of such indefensible riots as occurred in East

St Louis, for the decision to maintain a friendly attitude to Negro labor will tend to lessen friction between the races in all sections. For the first time in this great labor council Negro delegates addressed the convention asking organization, and it is significant that the appeal of the Negroes was heartily indorsed by white delegates from the South.

It is to be recognized that the shortage of labor throughout the country, and the coming of so much Negro labor to the North, has had much to do with the taking of this step. A year ago a resolution was brought before the federation convention by Ohio delegates, asking that white organizers be sent among Negroes in the South. This request was based solely on the ground that the exodus of Negro labor to the North had become a menace to the wage standard of white labor. This year the broader ground was reached of organizing the Negro for his own good. The idea of sending a white organizer among the Negroes was abandoned and the dispatch of a colored organizer determined upon. In one of the resolutions adopted it was declared that "we feel and believe that a colored organizer, because of his racial and social relations among his people, could accomplish much in organizing the forces into unions."

A white delegate from Alabama reported that the old racial prejudice of the white trade unionist in the South had worn off. This change of view had been helped "because colored strikers had stayed out when white men gave up battles for a higher wage, and the white men who also stayed out and finally won the struggle, were appreciative of the spirit shown." A Negro who took part in the action at Buffalo writes to the New York Age: "It may easily prove that the Negro will come into the union more rapidly than has any other race in the country, now that his own people are to take the invitation to him." This makes it manifest that a relationship has been established that promises practical results.

OYSTER SHUCKERS RETURN TO WORK

10-13-17
An agreement having been reached between the oyster shuckers of Norfolk and their employers, practically all of the men returned to work during the present week. The principal demands of the men as to pay were complied with by the Oystermen and the men made some concessions in their demands as to working time, over time pay, etc.

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes NEW ORGANIZATION HELPS NEGRO MISFITS

Associated Colored Employees of America Aim to Bring About Systematic Distribution of Laborers.

OCTOBER 7, 1917

WHEN a negro honor graduate from Harvard is compelled to accept employment in Wall Street as a porter, and when statistics show that in New York City there were until recently 2,803 other negroes who had been trained for the trades, of which number only one, a mechanic, was employed in the line for which he was best adapted, it is interesting to learn that an organization now has been formed to correct as far as possible such a situation. Until a few weeks ago there was no organization exclusively devoted to the work of properly placing the negro. Incorporated under the laws of New York, the Associated Colored Employees of America, at 74 Cortlandt Street, is meeting with success in adjusting industrial misfits. There are no dues or assessments. The only expense to a member is a fee of \$2.

"A conservative estimate of the number of negroes crossing the Mason and Dixon line every week is 3,000," said John A. Ross, the organization's President, who was graduated from the New York University and for several years was cashier for an insurance company, "and yet this exodus from the South, which began soon after August, 1914, has had no appreciable effect upon the labor shortage. This has been due to the fact that there has been no systematic distribution of labor."

"Will the negroes return to the South?" he was asked.

"No one knows. But some idea of how those who remain there are urged to go North, for a while at least, may be gained by reading editorials in influential negro newspapers. For instance, here is the advice of one such publication in South Carolina.

"The editorial said in part:

Negroes still going North. A crowd left from Greenwood Saturday night. A farm boy of Greenwood went North last October to work for \$25 a week.

He came home last week to assist his people on the farm and brought more than \$100 and plenty of nice clothes. He gave his mother \$50, put \$50 in the Greenwood County Bank, and had some pocket change left. Good, indeed, for him. Scores of others could and should do likewise. They should hurry back.

"As it is practically an impossibility," Mr. Ross continued, "to arrest the exodus, despite the action of certain Southern cities in placing a prohibitive tax on labor agencies seeking to move negroes to the North, the logical remedy is to regulate the influx to the benefit of all concerned. The large employers need laborers; the negroes need work. Proper distribution is the only answer to the question that now confronts the North.

"First, it must be understood that more than 20,000 skilled negro workers have come North during the last three years. Among 2,803 men and women in New York City who have been especially trained in the trades our records showed that only one was employed at his calling. The rest were porters, elevator operators, chauffeurs, waiters, common laborers, and so on. The women were employed as chambermaids, waitresses, and in other unskilled occupations, although many of them were graduated from Tuskegee, Hampton, and other industrial schools. These colored people had left the South to come here because of the promise of better wages, better schools and better living conditions. Common labor pays better in the North than skilled laborers in the South. The immediate economic benefit, coupled with the knowledge that the law offers better protection to them in the North, almost always acts as a powerful restraining influence upon an intelligent negro in the matter of returning to the South to stay.

"Our organization is conducting a survey and census of all negro workers in New York City and vicinity. Already we have collected a mass of valuable information regarding the trades in which negroes are to be found, and in what numbers. We are compiling facts to show labor conditions, wages, and hours of work, which will be used as a first-hand source of information for colored workers eager to come here

from the South. In this work the organization is functioning as an employment bureau, making no charge to union members, and advising them where their particular work is to be found.

"Although the survey is yet far from completed, the union has found an amazing number of instances of misfit workers. It has found graduate engineers and electricians, experienced carpenters, painters, shipbuilders, and tailors engaged in the roughest forms of labor.

"Several avenues hitherto closed to negro employment have been opened for their admittance through our efforts. For instance, an electrician who was employed for several months as a waiter has been placed with a corporation that manufactures electrical appliances. A mason and plasterer has been transferred from the docks, where he worked as a longshoreman, to the service of a contractor and builder. Still another amateur longshoreman has found proper work in the shop of a large tailoring establishment.

"In some cases the misfits have been tragic, affecting men trained for high professions. Not long ago there was an instance of a young colored man who was graduated with honor from Harvard. Being unsuccessful in his search for employment, he was compelled to accept a position as porter in one of the exchanges in the financial district. A broker in the exchange was graduated from Harvard in the class with the colored man. When the broker met the porter he frequently would call to a fellow-member, and say, 'Come, meet my friend, Blank. We graduated in the same class at Harvard.' Of course, as soon as the negro saved enough he resigned and took up work for which his training fitted him, eventually winning recognition as a writer.

"To trained colored women conditions are equally discouraging. An accident to one of the members of a family living in Washington Square recently revealed the fact that the chambermaid was both a trained nurse and dressmaker and exceptionally capable in both capacities. Despairing of getting work in her special lines, she accepted the job of chambermaid. There are milliners employed as general houseworkers, bookkeepers as domestics, and stenographers as errand girls. Less than one-twentieth of 1 per cent. of skilled workers in the trades investigated are fittingly employed."

"The following figures," said Mr. Ross, "show the number of trained men and women in trades investigated by his organization to date:

SKILLED LABOR, (MEN.)	
Shipbuilders	263
Engineers	256
Mechanics	517
Tailors	251
Carpenters	132
Cooks	302
Painters	141
Electricians	72
Cigarmakers	93
SKILLED LABOR, (WOMEN.)	
Seamstresses	481
Milliners	113
Bookkeepers	182

Total.....2,803
"In establishing a negro labor union in New York City we have received the promise of the support of the New York State Labor Department and the sympathetic co-operation of some of the most important corporations in the country. In the case of the corporations, particularly, this active interest is due to experience gained in the employment of negroes during the last three years. The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company at East Pittsburgh, Penn., has among its 14,000 employees 1,100 negroes. The Superintendent of the company says: 'The negroes have proved careful, industrious, sober, and patient. Tardiness and slowness are their main weaknesses.' A large department store in New York employs thirty-one negroes out of a total of 3,000 persons. The negroes are not segregated.

"We propose properly to distribute negro workers to the parts of the country where they are most needed and where they can do the country and themselves the most good. The South, as well as the North, realizes that the negro in industry can be ignored no longer, for he has become an economic force."

In a recent issue The Richmond (Va.) Journal stated:

The South will presently find herself minus the most desirable workmen and saddled with only the poorer quality of negro labor. But why should we have to go North to get simple justice? Why drive away hands that may be hard to coax back, once they are gone? It seems to us that the subject is too serious, too fraught with menace to our local industries, to be dismissed lightly. The Chamber of Commerce could do no better work than to appoint a committee to investigate the grievances of the negro, decide upon the proper remedy, and see that it is enforced.

"As a result of negro migration," commented Mr. Ross, "it is certain that the South ultimately will benefit, economically, as much as the North. Better schools and better living conditions automatically will increase the efficiency of the laborers who remain there."

"Within a year the union plans to have branches in all Northern cities of 5,000 or more negroes. If there is a congestion of laborers in Philadelphia, while Boston is sending out an SOS for men, arrangements will be made immediately to transfer the surplus to Boston. The employer pays only the actual cost and has access to the records of the case whenever wanted. Since the union has been in existence many firms employing large numbers of colored people, or contemplating such employment, have sent their applications to the Associated Colored Employees for investigation. A careful analysis is made of the character of each man or woman seeking work, and complete instructions are given regarding the demands of the position sought. In this way it is hoped always to get the right person for the right place. The demand for labor will increase, due to thousands being called to military duty, while many factories must double their production output to meet the war's requirements."

UNIONIZING NEGRO LABOR. 9/27/17
Among the beneficial results of the war, a certain modifying of the attitude of union labor toward the Negro is pointed out by the *Journal and Guide* of Norfolk, Va. It cites the fact that agents of the American Federation of Labor were never as active among the race as now, and never before in that section were Negro labor organizations invited to participate in a Labor Day parade. This interest on the part of white labor is taken to portend the eradication of the double standard of wages and working conditions in the South.

New York Age
Any movement that promises to bring about a square deal for Negro labor in the South, or at the North for that matter, is to be welcomed. It would be well for those concerned, however, to be cautious in their dealings with the leaders of organized labor, and test well the good faith of any overtures made before surrendering any advantage already gained. The advice and experience of those familiar with the policy of the labor unions should be employed to test the merits of any propositions offered. A square deal should be insisted on and guarantees to that effect given.

In the same issue of the *Journal and Guide* is found evidence of inequality in dealing with colored laborers in the Atlantic Coast Line shops at Rocky Mount, N. C. The company gave an increase of wages to all other classes of its employees except the Negroes, so the latter walked out. They are stated to be members of the Federation, but if the Federation does not back up their demand for equality of treatment, their unionism would appear to profit nothing.

Another straw to show that the white unionists are not wholehearted in their affiliation with the Negro was shown in a letter to

the Birmingham, Ala., Reporter, relating how white miners sought to intimidate a colored man elected to the presidency of the union. The Negroes outnumbered the whites at this mine and consequently elected one of their own race, the union comprising members of both races.

Such matters as these need to be adjusted before the colored laborers can take much stock in the genuineness of the attempts made to draw them into the ranks of organized labor. Unless an absolutely square deal is given them they will remain distrustful of any overtures made.

CHICAGO U. L. NEWS
JULY 31, 1917

THE HUMAN SIDE OF THINGS.

UNIONIZING COLORED PEOPLE.

Here is an incident that is not uncommon in Chicago streets: A colored man is driving a truck. One of its wheels gives way. The outfit is stalled. Along comes a fellow truck driver, a white man. "What's trouble?" he calls gruffly, and jumps down from his seat. And he sets to work to aid the colored driver to right matters. As much courtesy is shown, perhaps in a little different way, as is revealed when the owner of an automobile, out for a pleasure spin, stops to help an unfortunate fellow whose tire has blown out.

How is this to be accounted for? Merely by the fact that the colored driver and the white driver are members of the same union. And the incident typifies a new spirit that is apparently enjoying a rapid and healthy growth in Chicago. In short, the great, big, heavy, brass bound door to organized labor is beginning to swing open to men and women whose skin is dark but whose hands are skilled in some branch of the world's work, high or low.

For years the question of taking colored men into labor unions has been moot. To be sure, in perhaps the majority of cases discrimination had not been obtrusive. In most international unions no specific objection to negro labor is read into the constitution or by-laws. But local unions have found ways of keeping colored men and women outside their benefits, just as they have in some instances found means of excluding all but select classes of white persons. For example, in "The Colored People of Chicago," issued by the Juvenile Protective association in 1913, one finds this:

"The colored man believes that the labor unions discriminate against him, either openly or secretly; a few of the organizations have a clause in their constitutions stating that whites alone are eligible to membership, but most of them allow the colored man to pay his initiation fee and become a member; they, however, take no pains to secure him a place, and when he finds it difficult to find work because the contractor and his fellow workmen discriminate against him and only gets a job here and there he is frequently tempted to work with 'scabs,' and after several fines for his infringement of rules he drops out of the union. The investigators found that this was not the exception, but the rule. Mechanics who are members of the building trades do not complain because they have been refused membership in the unions, but because they are discriminated against

when it comes to working in a building, although this discrimination is not extended to the unskilled colored man. Therefore, while many colored mechanics who come to Chicago for work return to the south, where there are fewer unions and white men more willingly work with colored men, this return to the south almost never occurs among the unskilled."

Doubtless the great influx of colored people from the south that has been taking place during the last year is largely responsible for the rather more cordial attitude toward them that is being held not only by individuals of white skin in the labor organizations, but by the leaders of these organizations. There has, however, been a gradual and apparently steady growth toward a better understanding in local unions between whites and colored men. It may be observed, for illustration, that in the Chicago flat janitors' union, not only are 1,000 of the 6,000 members negroes, but the first vice-president, one of the executive board and one of the stewards are negroes. It might be observed that 8,000 of the membership of the Mine Workers' union in Illinois are colored men. Notice might likewise be taken of the facts that negroes are sometimes seen doing the difficult work of structural iron workers in Chicago and that the president of the carpenters' local union in Gary, Ind., is a colored man. Other striking instances might be noted. Colored people are not only joining local unions on an equal footing with white people, but they are working side by side with them and being elected to high offices in the local unions.

Misunderstanding has had a material effect in some instances in driving colored persons out of unions or preventing them from joining. Here is one example: In a certain small city in Alabama or Georgia—the state doesn't matter—the membership fee in the carpenters' union was \$5. Colored men make good carpenters. Some of them came to Chicago, where the membership fee in the carpenters' local is \$50. They wanted union cards so that they might work in Chicago. "All right," said an official of the Chicago union, "give us \$45 apiece." The colored carpenters didn't understand. They thought the Chicago union was seeking to practice discrimination, to keep them from working in Chicago, when the truth was that the demand for the difference was purely a matter of business with the union officials.

Leaders of unions and of the colored people in Chicago are striving for an understanding which is likely to result in a far more general unionization of the colored population.

PROPER SHOW OF SPIRIT BY OUR WOMEN.

The Journal and Guide has never stood for the principle of uppishness of our people in their contact with white people; it does not believe in it, but it rather believes in uniform courtesy and the meeting of abuses with as much good nature and diplomacy as any given case will allow of without sacrifice of self-respect and manhood. The soft answer often turns away wrath and saves a good job, much needed, which otherwise might be lost. And good jobs are far easier lost than found. There was a paragraph in Mr. Pope's Rocky Mount letter in The Journal and Guide last week that speaks volumes for the growing

spirit of self-assertion among our women, which is too often lacking among our men, and we reproduce it here to emphasize and re-enforce the truth of it, as follows:

Rocky Mount, N. C.—Declaring that they would not work under the manager, every one of the female colored operatives at the knitting mill here left their work at eleven o'clock last Thursday morning. The trouble arose when the white floor manager cursed one of the girls and attempted to otherwise abuse her. When the superintendent learned of the trouble later in the day he immediately began to visit the homes of the operatives asking them to return to work. The offending white manager was discharged and the girls returned to their work with no loss of time. This mill is owned and managed entirely by white people. They employ colored girls from some of the best families in the city. They have made good and the management has expressed its determination to see that they are treated with respect.

When our workers "have made good," and they are doing it in all lines of industry in all sections of the country, the management in nine cases of ten, will determine "to see that they are treated with respect"—provided, that those who are aggrieved resent it in the proper spirit, as our women operatives in the knitting mill at Rocky Mount did. When they "take the bull by the horns" in that way the manager will usually "sit up and take notice" but when they do not so, he will do nothing of the sort. He will rather be glad not to do so, and perhaps laugh over it as "a sweet morsel." But the same situation confronts white women workers.

Moral: When your rights and self-respect are outraged do as our women did at Rocky Mount.

COLORED MEN

DENIED INCREASE

Journal and Guide
Railroad Division

In Raise Ordered By
Government

WOMEN ASK FOR MORE PAY

Tobacco Stemmers Declare They Are Not Receiving A Living Wage

(By James A. Clark.)

Rocky Mount, N. C.—The colored laborers of the American Federation of Labor who have been working at the Atlantic Coast Line shops, but recently walked out, five hundred in a body, because the company gave 6½ percent increase of wages to everybody except the Negroes, are still insisting that the railroad company must consider them as entitled to the increase of wages ordered by the government to all railroad employees.

They cannot understand why it is that the Swede, Pole, Jew, Italian and all save the Negro get the increase and the Negro must meet the advanced cost of living just like the others, give a harder day's work and yet must not be benefited by the increase of wages.

It is only through such papers like the "Journal and Guide" that we can circulate the true facts in the case of these men. Had they stolen chickens every white paper would have stamped it on the minds of the nation. But since they are demanding justice and showing that they have rights that must be respected the news is suppressed. However, their bold stand for better conditions for Negro laborers is a song that must be sung by the Negro race.

Rev. Talley said in his special sermon to the men, "God wants men with their heads perpendicular to heaven with a divine will and rights that must be respected and any creature ceases to be a man when he crawls around horizontally indifferent to wrongs committed against him."

We pray that these men will get their rights.

Tobacco Stemmers Quit.

About three hundred women employed as stemmers by the American Cigar Co., at their Norfolk factory went on a strike several days ago when the management refused to accede to their demands for an increased wage scale and shorter hours. The women have organized under the Transportation Workers Association of Virginia and declare that they will not return to work until their demands are met. Mr. J. J. Long, manager of the Norfolk factory was willing to deal with the women but declined to negotiate with

the union and on that account no agreement has been reached. The factory is closed down, there being no labor to operate it.

Efforts on the part of citizens to meditate the troubles between the women and their employer failed.

NEGRO TEAMSTERS AND LOADERS' STRIKE ENDS

NEW ORLEANS LA. TEM
Compromise Wage of 12¢ a Day Agreed on After Week's Dispute

Members of the local Teamsters' and Loaders' Union who struck for higher wages September first, returned to work Tuesday. They accepted the compromise secured through the efforts of President John F. Clark, of the cotton exchange of \$3.60 a day. The old scale had been \$2.80 and they were asking a flat rate of \$4.

Officials of the union notified Mr. Clark late Monday night that the offer of \$3.60 a day would be accepted and on the strength of this action the boss draymen formally signed the new tariff based on the increased wages.

It has not been definitely ascertained just how much increase this will mean in the cost of handling a bale of cotton here. Revision in the public warehouse tariffs and other items, however, will probably cost receivers and shippers of the staple between 15 and 20 cents a bale more than formerly.

Demands of the longshoremen and screwmen remain to be settled, but it is believed there will not be any trouble in this. The Cotton Exchange committee is not directly interested in this controversy, so far as acting as an arbitration committee, and the matter rests between the stevedores and longshoremen.

It is understood that the stevedores are willing to pay the increased wages demanded, but are not willing to accept some of the regulations which the longshoremen propose.

LONGSHOREMEN ON STRIKE IN NEW ORLEANS

New Jersey Informer
New Orleans, Louisiana, Sept. 24.

The longshoremen, both white and colored, declared a strike Sept. 12 at noon. The colored organization consists of about 1,500 men. They are demanding an increase in wages and recognition in the system of working and desire the employment of more men on various jobs. The stevedores are willing to grant the request with the exception of signing a term of five years.

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes

LABOR IN A CLASH

OVER THE NEGRO

Constitution

Southern Delegates Fight

Resolution Presented to

Federation—Support of the

War Pledged.

11-21-17

Buffalo, N. Y., November 20.—With out a dissenting vote, the American Federation of Labor today reaffirmed its unswerving loyalty to the country and a determination to stand behind the national administration until peace comes. The pacifist element, which yesterday mustered a small minority against President Gompers' attitude in support of the war, was silent.

Resolution Very Sweeping.

The resolution containing the declaration was reported favorably by the resolutions committee. It was sweeping in scope. The course pursued by President Gompers in calling a conference of the national and international officers of the federation at Washington on March 12 was approved, and all his subsequent actions and those of the executive council with reference to the war were concurred in.

The pacifists declared that they were unaware that the resolution was to come up today. They made no move for a reconsideration, however, and it was pointed out that, while their fight yesterday was based on a vote of confidence in President Gompers, today's resolution called for a declaration on a clear-cut question of loyalty to the country.

This resolution with others from the committee on resolutions occupied virtually the entire day. Vice President Duncan made a report at the afternoon session on his trip to Russia as a member of the commission appointed by President Wilson, and Gifford Pinchot, speaking for the federated board of farm organizations, asked for closer relations between the farmers' organizations and the American Federation of Labor. A committee was appointed with instructions to report to the present convention on the possibility of constructive action along the line suggested by Mr. Pinchot.

Clash Over the Negro.

The only resolution that caused extended debate related to the organization of negro labor. It was submitted by Delegate Murphy, of San Francisco, and embodied in its preamble a resolution adopted by the International Negro league and presented to the San Francisco labor council for indorsement. The negro league's resolution specifically referred to the "southern states" as the scenes of wrongs inflicted

ed upon the race.

The resolutions committee reporting to the convention assumed no responsibility for the statements in the preamble of the Murphy resolution and recommended reference to the executive council of only that part of it referring to organization of the negroes.

O. D. Gorman, of Georgia, protested against the reference to the southern states remaining in the record, and moved as an amendment to strike out the entire section.

"The slaughter at East St. Louis came as a result of thefts by starving negroes enticed away from their southern homes," Gorman said. "I defy any delegate to point to a single instance of a negro being killed for robbery in the south. I resent this reference to the southern states. The treatment of the negro in the south is better than it has been in the north."

Southern Delegates Insist.

Vice President Duncan explained that the committee's recommendation explicitly disclaimed responsibility for the statements made in this part of the resolution, but Gorman and other southern delegates insisted that this was not going far enough and demanded that the question before the house was on the approval or disapproval of the report from the committee on resolutions. A motion to lay the report on the table was lost and the debate was resumed.

Finally the report was amended by the resolutions committee to read:

"Your committees cannot be responsible for and rejects the statements contained in the preamble of the resolution," and as so amended the report was adopted.

In his address on Russia, Vice President Duncan expressed confidence in the ultimate formation of a stable and lasting republican government there.

"Give them an opportunity to develop their new democracy and there will be born in it a national spirit that will be worth fighting for," he said.

TRACKMEN VOTE TO ADMIT

NEGROES TO THEIR UNION.

DETROIT MICH FREE PRESS

SEPTEMBER 7, 1917

Settlement of the mixed race problem was reached Thursday by the railroad "Maintenance of Way" employees, in international session at Hotel Statler by making all men, regardless of race or color, eligible to membership in Canadian locals and all but Negroes eligible in the United States. Special allied locals will be started in this country for Negro workers.

Resolutions were adopted favoring national prohibition and an eight-hour work day. The delegates voted to reaffiliate with the trades congress of Canada. A contribution to the Thomas Mooney defense fund was voted.

The following officers were re-elected: President, A. E. Barker, Detroit; secretary-treasurer, George Seal, Detroit; vice-presidents, M. J. Powers, Detroit, and Henry Irwin, Manitoba, Can.

Members of the executive committee are: William Dorey, Woodstock, New Brunswick, Can.; F. H. Fljodal, Warroad, Minn.; W. V. Turnbull, St. John, New Brunswick, Can.; Oliver Folland, Halma, Minn.

ORGANIZING NEGROES

N Y C CALL

AUGUST 8, 1917

There is but one real solution to the Negro laborer and that is organization.

Almost every day the press contains statement of an attempted race riot, and in every instance they will endeavor to lay the troubles at the feet of union labor when, quite to the contrary, the greatest protection that has been given the Negro laborer has come through and at the hands of organized labor.

For years past organized labor has spent much effort and money in an endeavor to build up the condition and character of the Negro in his wage earning capacity, but, very peculiarly,

the leaders in the Negro's own race, if not deliberately discouraging, have made no effort to encourage the Negro worker to organize and gain for himself the right and protection of collective bargaining.

It would, perhaps, be unjust to charge these leaders of the Negro race with deliberateness in these matters, but certainly it is most peculiar that they appear to have overlooked it.

Let the leaders of the Negro race urge their people to organize and they will then do more towards character building of their kind than through any other source.—National Labor Journal.

The New York Age

Sunday afternoon last I had the pleasure of meeting and addressing the members of the Washington Colored Waiters' Union, No. 726, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, at True Reformers' Hall, when there was a large number of the membership present. The union is in a healthy financial condition, the monthly dues being one dollar per month. It is only six months old, but is spreading the spirit of organization among other wage-earning groups in the District, which stand badly in need of effective and general organization.

This phase of the matter was emphasized by me in my remarks, as well as that efficiency and promptness in service and honest pride in the service being necessary to secure the best results for the employer and the waiter. In the discussion, President Nelson W. Rhone and Secretary Emanuel W. R. Quivers endorsed the statement made by me that our men and women wage-earners did not show the pride in their occupations that white wage-earners show, but, rather, were ashamed of them and did not, on that account, care to organize and protect their interests, as the white do. That is false pride with a vengeance. The work that a person does, that he makes his living out of, whether as bootblack or master builder, should be the work nearest his heart and in which he takes the greatest pride.

The Waiters' Union, through Mr. Quivers, has requested Miss Jeannette Carter, pension attorney and a member of THE AGE staff here, to work up a mass meeting of wage-earning women of the District, and this is being done.

The disposition to underrate the work, not to make the most of it, and not to organize to protect their interests as the white wage-earners do, is stronger among our women than among our men. But a start has been made to teach all of our wage-earners the falseness of their position and the great injury to their interests that result from it. It will be a great advantage in every way to our wage-earning women to have an effective organization in the District of Columbia.

LABOR UNION ORGANIZATION

The New York Age

The organization spirit among

white wage earners not only in

Washington, but all over the

country, is one of the seven wonders of the times, more than any-

thing and accentuates the conflict

between labor and capital, the

awakening intelligence of wage-

earners, and the general recognition

of the intrinsic value of organization for the accomplishment

of any given object. The labor

union principle has been of very

slow growth among white wage-

earners, but now they are organized in every industry, skilled and

unskilled.

There is a well defined movement in Washington to organize

Negro wage-earners who stand

badly in need of such, but who

are very slow to recognize the

need, and to learn of white wage-

earners the value of organization.

The Washington Colored Wait-

ers' Union is affiliated with the

American Federation of Labor and

is striving to get other wage-

earners to organize. Nelson W.

Phone is president and Emanuel

W. R. Quivers is secretary of the

union. The Negro wage-earners

of the District of Columbia, and

of the country, should be as thoroughly organized as are white

wage-earners, and we think they

will be in time.

WOLYOKE MASS TRANSCRIPT

JUNE 28, 1917

That Colored Student.

The Schenectady General Electric

Works strike is over. There have been several strikes at the big electric plant in Schenectady, throwing thousands of men and women temporarily out of employment. Grievances which brought on these strikes were based on wages, length of working day on charges of discrimination against labor leaders. Never before in the history of the company have employees struck because of the negro issue.

Early in the month Wendell King, Union college sophomore, was one of twenty-five or thirty college students, who obtained work in the electric plant at the close of the college year. He was recommended for work there by professors at Union college, and was set to work on a drill. The presence of the negro the employees resented and finally struck. It took four conferences to iron out the troubles. But the colored student keeps his job.

At the time of the walkout the General Electric company was engaged in huge war contracts, many of them important parts of battleship and coast defense construction. The machinists were engaged in important parts of this work and the walkout eight days ago resulted in a suspension of all machine work. Night shifts were employed to hasten the government work and a continuation of the strike for a few days more would have resulted in a tie-up of almost the entire plant.

This is the sixth walk out at the Schenectady plant since 1901.

HIRE NEGROES TO COLLECT GARBAGE

JUNE 15, 1917

Some wagons taken out by 50 men employed and no disturbances reported.

FEARED WARM WEATHER

Heath Commissioner Fronczak agreed collections a necessity.

Negro labor was employed yesterday by Commissioner Schwartz of the bureau of streets to take the place of strikers in the collection of refuse and garbage. About 50 of the negroes were employed. There was no trouble, but police guards were used as a precaution.

It is said by Commissioner Kreinherder and Commissioner Schwartz that many of the men who quit have taken other employment. The trouble in the ashes and garbage gangs arises solely over the complaint of the men that the wages of \$14 and \$15 a week paid them by the city is not sufficient for them to live on.

Commissioner Schwartz conferred with Health Commissioner Fronczak yesterday. It was agreed that on account of the warm weather collections

should be made where there is the greatest necessity. It was said that it will take some time to have collections moving normally, because new men will have to be broken in.

A statement made on behalf of the men who quit claimed that they had not entered into an agreement to abide by the wages given them at last summer's strike.

NEGRO WORKERS ORGANIZE TO PREVENT RIOTS

Organization of American negroes along lines that will prevent massacres and riots such as the East St. Louis and other recent affairs was decided on by the American Federation of Labor today.

For the first time in history negro delegates addressed the convention asking that their ranks be organized. The Federation voted to appoint an organizer under a special department to do this work in all sections of the country.

Southern delegates gave the move their full support. Delegate King of Alabama seconded the motion on this resolution. He declared that prejudice against the negro worker is dying in the South, that great migrations of colored laborers from South to North is uneconomic and inspired by the negroes' misbelief that he can better himself by going North. King said he believed the organization of the colored men would insure the absence of future race riots of serious proportions everywhere in the country.

NEGRO SPEAKERS ATTACK NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Resolution Protests Segregation of Colored Soldiers.

The Rev. J. H. Wiley of Providence, addressing a Negro congregation in the Twelfth Baptist Church, Shawmut avenue, last night, at a meeting of protest against a local labor leader's recent assertion that certain Massachusetts employers, in proposing to import workers from the South, were inviting a race riot like that of East St. Louis, seized the opportunity to attack the Washington administration. His general charge was that, under democracy's cloak, the administration is intent on even forcing equal rights upon peoples across the sea, while denying similar privileges to Negroes in this country.

One outcome of this, Mr. Wiley said, will be the emigration of many Negroes after the war. One haven, he thought, might be France, where they could help in restoration.

He promised continuous agitation against the present state of affairs. He criticised Mayor Curley, referring to scenes attendant upon the showing of a certain play here, and said that the colored people as a whole would sup-

port John F. Fitzgerald.

William Munroe Trotter spoke in similar strain, and presented a resolution protesting against the segregation of Negroes in draft training camps and branding the President's claim that the war is being waged for democracy as "sheer mockery and deceit." The resolution called the segregation of Negro soldiers "a weak pandering to the race prejudice of southern white Americans, which is a discredit to our republic, in that no friction has taken place, or has even had a chance to take place."

Unionizing Negro Labor.

Commenting upon a recent editorial in the Journal and Guide in which reference was made to the recent activities of the American Federation of Labor among colored people, The New York Age says: "Any movement that promises to bring about a square deal for Negro labor in the South, or at the North for that matter, is to be welcomed. It would be well for those concerned, however, to be cautious in their dealings with the leaders of organized labor, and test well the good faith of any overtures made before surrendering any advantage already gained." The Age mentions several instances, including the Rocky Mount affair, in which Negro unionists were unfairly dealt with by white unionists. There is really nothing in the situation at Rocky Mount to encourage Negro workmen to have anything to do with the American Federation of Labor. We understand that when Negro union machinists' helpers walked out for higher wages white union men were put in their places because, there was a growing sentiment on the part of the union against Negroes holding these places. We do not comprehend the ethics of a labor union that would permit one member to take such unfair advantage of another, and agree with The Age that Negroes should exercise care and discretion in identifying themselves with any branch of the American Federation of Labor. In Virginia the transportation workers have formed an organization under a State charter, which, in our judgment is the thing that all classes of colored laborers should do.—Norfolk (Va.), Journal and Guide.

NEGROES IN THE LABOR UNIONS

Special to The Christian Science Monitor from its Western Bureau

CHICAGO, Ill.—"Let us open all unions to the Negro," says the Chicago Labor News, in commenting on a report of the East St. Louis race riots in which discrimination of unions against the Negro was criticized. The labor paper admits that "many of the unions have discriminated shamefully against the Negro." It adds, "And we condemn them heartily for so doing."

The News continues, "It is ridiculous to say that the I. W. W. is the only labor organization that welcomes the Negro. In the United Mine Workers alone, at the present time,

there are more Negroes than the I. W. W. has had all told in its ranks since it was founded. And this takes no account of the thousands of Negroes in scores of other trade unions. The Asphalt Pavers Union of Chicago, one of the best in the city, is composed entirely of Negroes. So is local No. 208 of the musicians. And of the Chicago Flat Janitors Union, which ranks high among the most powerful and militant organizations in this country, fully 25 per cent of the 7,000 members are colored. Various other similar examples could be cited."

Y. C. AMERICAN

AUGUST 12, 1917

Labor and the Negro.

(From the St. Paul News).

To what extent the race riots in East St. Louis were due to "labor agitators"—official or unofficial—will probably never be known.

But this may be set down as a fact—organized labor is as ready as anybody else to give the negro a square deal.

Every man who becomes a member of the American Federation of Labor obligates himself "never to discriminate against a fellow-worker on account of creed, color or nationality."

This is as high a standard as one can find anywhere; and, in a general way, it expresses the attitude of organized labor toward the negro throughout the entire country.

It is true that in some parts of the United States there is a prejudice against the negro among trade unionists, but whenever this is the case these trade unionists simply reflect the opinion of the so-called better classes of the community.

For example, in such communities, it is safe to say, it is easier for a colored man to join a white man's union than it is for a colored man to join a white man's church.

Ordinarily when there is a prejudice against the negro, either on the part of a workman or any other kind of a man, it is due to the negro's character and not to his color.

NEGRO STRIKERS RETURN TO WORK

9/24/17 (Associated Press.)

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 25.—The 500 striking negro union freight handlers returned to work early today, permitting full resumption of shipping at this port, the striking longshoremen having resumed work yesterday. The questions of increased wages and revision of the piece work scale for the freight handlers and the dispute regarding certain working regulations remaining unsettled between the longshoremen and stevedores will be arbitrated by the local committee of the national adjustment commission, which will hold its first meeting tomorrow night.

CHICAGO ITS TRADES

JUNE 9, 1917

NEGROES IN THE NORTH.

The demand of certain labor leaders that Negroes be prohibited from coming north is a demand for serfdom. The federation wants the Negro to be treated much as the Russian serf was treated, compelled to stay on the land. That is what the thing would amount to.

The south probably would welcome the legislation. It finds that its economies rely upon the Negro labor. If the Negro is tempted north the south suffers, or will suffer, from labor shortage. Knowledge of this is bettering the Negro's lot in places where it has been unenviable, and economy seems to be working towards a solution of the question.

Conditions of employment are none too good for the Negro in the north now. There are forces superior to legislative acts at work.

LANCASTER PA LABOR LEADER SEPTEMBER 1, 1917

Iron Molders' Organization Holds Out Hand of Brotherhood.

The International Iron Molders' union has started a movement to eliminate trouble between white and negro labor in its trade. In a call issued recently urging all negroes to organize, the union speaks of the reluctance which Booker T. Washington always had toward introducing labor organizations among the members of his race.

"Since Mr. Washington's death," it says, "no leading representative of the negro race has said or done anything which has come to our attention which would in any way encourage the negro in industry to join the trade union of his craft. It was for this reason that the molders' delegation at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor metal trades department introduced the measure which instructed the officers of the department to correspond with recognized leaders of the negro race and convey to them the desire of the American trade union movement to bring about trade union organization among negroes."

WHITES GO ON STRIKE; RACE MEN ARE HIRED

Scores of Swedes employed to run electric conveyance trucks on the Armour yards recently were discharged and Race men hired in their stead, following a strike, in which they resented working with Grant Jerriks, who was recently employed on the trucks.

Jerriks, it has been learned, was for years employed in the Armour household until recently physical defects hindered his work. Young Ogden Armour obtained for him the position on the trucks. Jerriks' work was satisfactory, but his presence caused discomfort among the Swedes, who struck shortly after he went on the job. Their action paralyzed the conveyance system. Race men employed about the yards, who had a knowledge of the situation, relieved the congestion and will in future be employed permanently for this work.

for Colored

men, Dredmised

CHICAGO ITS TRADES

JULY 10, 1917

by Committee

THE question of colored women in industry was discussed yesterday at a meeting of the subcommittee on "Women and Children in Industry" of the woman's committee of the council of national defense. V. E. Olander, Miss Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, Miss Agnes Nestor, and Miss Mary Anderson were the speakers.

Miss Breckinridge urged the more complete organization of Negro women in trades unions.

"There are several unions in Chicago in which there are colored as well as white women," she said. "There are also several to which only white people may belong, and several to which only colored people may belong."

"However, the colored women of Chicago are very well organized, considering the amount of attention which has been paid them. It seems extremely necessary, however, that our organization should extend its efforts more and more to the help of the colored woman—and we're going to do it."

Further plans for work along this line will be discussed at a meeting of the committee later in the week.

CHICAGO, MISS HERALD

SEPTEMBER 18, 1917

Negro Strikers Arrested.

The long arm of the federal law is reaching out for striking trainmen in Mississippi, a half dozen arrests having been made for obstructing interstate commerce traffic within the past 48 hours.

Deputy Jasper Boykin of the United States marshal's office, has returned from Laurel, where he arrested two negro porters, Bob Reed and Jack Rupert, charged with obstructing traffic on the Gulf, Mobile and Northern road. Both negroes struck for higher wages on October 25, and it is alleged that they engaged in a campaign of threats and intimidation. They are now in jail at Meridian.

Deputy Boykin also arrested several men at Gulfport who were participating in the strike of switchmen and car repairers at that place, similar charges having been preferred against them in the federal court for this district.

Orders have come from Washington to the federal authorities to rigidly enforce the statutes framed to prevent violence or intimidation during strikes, and it is evident that the government intends to promptly suppress these troubles.

WHITES TO TAKE IN NEGROES.

CHICAGO, Sept. 25.—The packers here are "tyrannical" and are maintaining conditions of "industrial slavery," the Chicago Federation of Labor has begun a campaign to unionize all employees of packing companies.

Delegates at a meeting said the white workers who demanded \$2.50 a day were replaced with Negroes who worked for \$1.50 a day. Plans adopted by the union call for taking in Negroes.

Labor-1917

Unions and Strikes

NEW YORK WOMEN'S
JULY 12, 1917

NEGRO IMMIGRATION PRESENTS BIG PROBLEM TO NORTHERN CAPITAL AND LABOR.

The recent race riots of East St. Louis have one redeeming feature. Deplorable as the conflict and bitter feeling left in its wake may be, the clash has served the desirable end of awakening Northern capital and labor to the problem created by the immigration of the negro working hosts northward.

Within the past year many thousands of negroes migrated their way North, some attracted by the promise of pleasant work and higher wages, some to escape Jim Crow laws and anti-negro prejudice and discrimination in the South, and others for all kinds of other reasons. Up to the East St. Louis race war, however, but little attention was paid by employers and the forces of labor to the new problem.

Many More Towns Have Negro Labor Problem.

Since there has become apparent a growing appreciation of both the economic and social problems injected in the introduction of negro competition with whites in wages and employment and the friction always attendant where whites and blacks mix in residence. There are many more towns and industrial communities where the negro race problem is a growing problem whose treatment demands early and careful attention.

Union leaders are known to be considering seriously unionization of the black and his removal thus as a depressing influence on wages and working conditions. Whether or not this course is true, it is the view of men broader in their vision that more than organization of the negro workers is necessary to maintain peaceful relationship between the immigrating negroes and the white inhabitants of the North.

A Few Primary Needs.

Decent dwelling conditions, sufficient areas to permit them to go their way unmolested, strict and continual police supervision for the prevention of the drink, gambling and other vices to which the negro is susceptible, are a few primary needs found indispensable for the successful government of negro population wherever it has massed.

The problem is one for capital, labor and the local and Federal authorities. Now that all of these agencies have been awakened to their responsibilities in the matter, it is the hope that the problem, if not completely solved, at least may be met sufficiently to prevent the re-

currence of such clashes as now begrime the city of East St. Louis, Ill.

Seek to Unionize Negroes

The International Iron Moulders' Union has started a movement to eliminate trouble between white and negro labor in its trade. In a call issued yesterday urging all negroes to organize, the union speaks of the reluctance which Booker T. Washington always had toward introducing labor organizations among the members of his race.

"Since Mr. Washington's death," it says, "no leading representative of the negro race has said or done anything which has come to our attention which would in any way encourage the negro in industry to join the trade union of his craft. It was for this reason that the moulders' delegation at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor metal trades department introduced the measure which instructed the officers of the department to correspond with recognized leaders of the negro race and convey to them the desire of the American trade union movement to bring about trade union organization among negroes."

ALBANY, N. Y. TRIBUNE

SEPTEMBER 2, 1917

Many Negroes May

Enter Labor Unions

"Let us open all unions to the negro," says The Chicago Labor News, in commenting on a report of the East St. Louis race riots in which discrimination of unions against the negro was criticised. The labor paper admits that "many of the unions have discriminated shamefully against the negro." It adds: "And we condemn them heartily for so doing."

The News continues: "It is ridiculous to say that the I. W. W. is the only labor organization that welcomes the negro. In the United Mine Workers alone, at the present time, there are more negroes than the I. W. W. has had all told in its ranks since it was founded. And this takes no account of the thousands of negroes in scores of other trade unions. The Asphalt Pavers' Union of Chicago, one of the best in the city, is composed entirely of negroes. So is Local No. 208 of the Musicians. And of the Chicago Flat Janitors' Union, which ranks high among the most powerful and militant organizations in this country, fully 25 per cent. of the 7000 members are negroes. Various other similar examples could be cited."—Christian Science Monitor.

Negroes at Stockyards

Refuse to Join Union

CHICAGO ILL. TRIBUNE

SEPTEMBER 14, 1917

About 100 Negro employees of the stockyards, members of the American Negro Protective league, refused last night to be unionized. They hooted M. Sims, Negro organizer of the Chicago Federation of Labor, from the platform when he urged them to join the union and unanimously voted against such action. The meeting was held at 3458 Forest avenue. R. E. Barker presided and A. L. Jackson was secretary.

The American Negro Protective league was formed five years ago and has about 2,000 members. Its purpose, it was explained, is "to look out for the best interests of its membership."

NEGROES FORM UNION TO DISTRIBUTE LABOR

With a view to distributing throughout the east and west the 4,000 or 5,000 Negroes that are leaving the south each week, a group of progressive Negroes have organized the first labor union of their own under the name Associated Colored Employees of America, with executive offices at 74 Cortlandt street and employment offices at 436 Lenox avenue.

This union will meet the demands of employers for labor throughout the country. No charge is to be made to employee or employer. Branches will be opened in all of the large cities.

John A. Ross, president of the union, said much of the trouble attributed to Negro immigration such as reported from East St. Louis is due to unequal distribution. "There is always more prejudice against us where we live in large numbers," he added. He thinks that a more general distribution of Negro labor will obviate trouble.

KANSAS CITY MO JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 14, 1917

NOT TIME FOR STRIKES NOW.

Negro Leader Urges Race Not to Participate in Walkouts.

J. Silas Harris, president of the Negro National Educational Congress, has addressed the following to the negro laborers of Kansas City:

"Facing what promises to be the hardest winter in the history of the nation, you are making a serious mistake by taking part in any of the present strikes. The needs of your families and your patriotism are at stake. No matter what real or imaginary grievance you may have against the concerns by whom you are employed, now is not the time to strike. Engaged in the most stupendous war of its history, the republic expects and should have the united support of all of its citizens. This is an opportunity for you to make 'good.' Don't let it pass by."

MILWAUKEE WIS JOURNAL

AUGUST 24, 1917

NEGROES RETURN SOUTH.

Ald. Coleman Thursday brought before the county defense council the Federated Trades' council resolution opposing a labor selection plan to man factories.

"Thousands of negroes are coming north, and we know of employers here who are trying to hire them to take the places of white men," Mr. Coleman said. He read a letter from the Texas labor commissioner saying that 60,000 colored men had migrated from the south.

Mayor Hoan said the unanimous sentiment of the council was against labor importation. Mr. Coleman stated that in some cases women employed to take the place of men have been paid only half wages.

The annual picnic of Milwaukee bricklayers and plasterers will be held Saturday at Pabst park.

Tony Weth, member of Bakers' union, 2, Chicago, has been engaged as organizer for the Bakers' union, 205, Milwaukee.

ST. LOUIS GLOBE
AUGUST 23, 1917

Streiter attackieren Neger.

In Jersey City last night an den Biers J. A und L der Pennsylvania-Bahn, als 320 Neger eintrafen, um die Plätze der streitenden Frachtverlader einzunehmen, zu einem Zusammenstoß; die Streiter attackierten die Neger, welche aus dem Süden kamen und im Bahnhof am Exchange Place einquartiert wurden, mit Stöcken und Steinen um 20 Polizisten mußten mit ihren Knüppeln auf die Streiter losgehen, um sie zu verjagen. Die Frachtverlader fordern eine Lohnerhöhung von 30 auf 35 Cent die Stunde.

KORFOLK VIRGINIAN NEWS

OCTOBER 19, 1917

COLORED HOUSE WORKERS

TRY TO ORGANIZE UNION

The colored house workers on this side of the river are agitating a movement to organize themselves into a union for the purpose of demanding \$1 a day for their services in future. It was learned yesterday that the matter has been agitated for more than three weeks, and that the move has gained considerable headway.

Housekeepers, it is stated, are also planning to counter the move by doing their own work, and refusing to give employment to such parties as belong to unions. Housekeepers are also using other effective tactics to counter the organization, and that is to stop giving out gratuitous meals to casual callers.

Laborers Strike 6/30

The Clifford Contracting Co. was closed down today by eighty-five laborers laying down their tools. All were members of the Race, most of them being newcomers from the south.

The real cause was the superintendent wanted to lay off the two Race foremen and place all the laborers under an Italian foreman, who was overlooking the Italian laborers on the same job and who wished to rush and overwork the members of the Race. They refused to work under him. The two foremen who were laid off were Alonzo Pairs and Andrew Allen.

Lift Live Stock Embargo;

Negroes Return to Work

BOSTON TEX CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 26, 1917

The embargo on live stock issued Thursday by the Gulf Coast Lines on account of a strike by negro brakemen was called off Thursday night, according to an official announcement Friday morning.

The negroes were out only 12 hours before their grievance was settled. They wanted more pay.

White employes of the company met the emergency created by the negro walkout and traffic was not crippled on the road.

BUFFALO N Y NEWS
AUGUST 31, 1917

COLORED LABOR LEAGUE

IS FORMED BY WORKMEN

The Buffalo Colored Labor league was organized at a meeting of colored men employed as laborers in the various industrial plants and along the docks, in the Douglass hotel, 79 Main street, last night. These officers were elected:

President, L. Murray; vice president, H. Dennert; secretary, W. Hoskins; treasurer, Collins Brown. Executive committee, Edward Winn, Charles Reed, W. Davis, Charles Bradley, W. Pulley, Preston Johnson and David Golden. Headquarters of the league will be in 75 Main street.

Labor-1917

Occupation. Wages REPUBLICAN

Springfield, Mass.

FEB 20 1917

NEGROES ON TOBACCO FARMS

Elements That Enter Into That Question Considered

To the Editor of The Republican:—

Since I am making a study of the marketing of Connecticut valley tobacco and naturally interested in the labor supply on the tobacco farms, and since I am from the South and know something about the Negro as a farm laborer, I think it advisable to make a few brief remarks on the question of importing Negro laborers from the South to work on New England tobacco farms.

The Connecticut valley tobacco growers have been somewhat handicapped in very recent years because of the scarcity of farm labor and the high prices demanded. Many growers have had to limit their acreage to cope with the supply of labor, while others have let their crops damage because of insufficient labor at certain times during the season. This situation has accentuated the feasibility of employing cheap labor from the South to work on the tobacco farms.

In considering the profitableness of employing Negro laborers on northern farms it is necessary to have a very definite knowledge of some of the fundamental problems connected with Negro labor. Such labor may or may not prove profitable on northern tobacco farms, depending of course upon the type of Negro laborers secured and the methods of handling them. When the call is issued for cheap Negro laborers from the South the most undesirable ones are apt to be the first to respond—those from the cities and small towns who are out of employment and who know nothing about farming and farm life and care still less. These laborers do not prove successful even on southern farms because they are difficult to manage and are apt to quit work at any time without a moment's warning. To get a desirable class of laborers necessitates a considerable degree of selection. The best laborers are to be found on the southern farms and in the schools such as Hampton and Tuskegee. If only these could be imported in sufficient numbers they would help solve the labor problem. But it is difficult to find enough of laborers employed on southern farms and in the schools who would be willing to come North. Many of those on the farms are more or less permanently employed. Those from the schools would be glad to come North to make enough money to help pay their way in school, and would be very desirable laborers, but possibly not more than 1000 could be secured from the schools while several thousand would be needed on the New England tobacco farms.

On the other hand, after you have once employed the Negroes the problem is not solved, their work must be carefully supervised by some white

man. The northern employer not knowing much about the Negro is inclined to be too easy on him. It is the nature of a Negro to have to be subjected to control. This does not mean that the employer or overseer must stand over him with a club, but it does mean that the overseer must be firm in dealing with him. Once you have given him an inch he will take a yard. If you can only make him realize that you expect him to conform to certain standards of behavior and to do a reasonable amount of work very little trouble will follow. But to have an overseer to give all his time to supervision would necessitate a large enough tobacco farm and a sufficient number of Negroes to make it profitable for him to give his whole time to this work. Only on the larger farms where a large number of Negroes could be employed would it prove profitable to the land owner or employer. Negro labor on small farms without supervision does not prove to be profitable.

Then, too, Negroes and whites should never be worked together. It is the nature of the white man to have as little to do with the Negro as possible, and it is the nature of the Negro to become angry without a moment's thought. So strife occurs immediately when you begin to work them together. S. H. DEVAULT.

Massachusetts Agricultural College, February 17, 1917.

REPUBLICAN

Springfield, Mass.

FEB 22 1917

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Massachusetts Agricultural College, February 17, 1917.

JOURNAL

Providence, R. I.

MAR 1 1917

Southern Negroes in Connecticut

Prior to the last presidential election a complaint came from various Southern States of the exodus of negro labor. It was pointed out that labor agents from the North were inducing the negroes to leave, and in some of the

cities and States restrictive measures were undertaken to curtail the activity of the agents. Allegations were made that deceptive measures were used to induce the negroes to leave their Southern homes, that many of them returned stranded after finding their opportunities in the North not as represented, and finally that the negroes were being removed for the purpose of colonizing and illegally voting in doubtful States in order to sway the elections. This last charge was even entertained seriously by the Department of Justice at Washington.

At the time it was shown that most of the negro labor was taken from the South for railroad construction work but it now develops that owing to the scarcity of workmen in the tobacco growing industry of Connecticut some of it went there. A visitor recently travelling through the tobacco districts of that State expressed his surprise at seeing the large number of negroes at work in the fields, exclaiming that he had no idea that there were so many in Connecticut.

It appears that the tobacco-growing industry was seriously threatened a year ago by the scarcity of labor. The farmers had been able up to the year previous to secure labor in abundance at two dollars a day when suddenly with the starting up of the factories and munitions plants it became scarce, and inferior at that, at three dollars a day. Some of the larger growers then combined and imported from the South such colored help as was needed, and the experiment has resulted in such success that the process will be resorted to again this year. An agent for the growers is reported to have just returned from Virginia and Georgia, where he has contracted for enough labor, he says, to assure the farmers against shortage during the coming season.

Negro farm hands in the South see very little actual money. The majority of them are kept on the plantations and farms under the old tenant system by which the land owner furnishes them a mule, a plough, fertilizer and seed for half their crop. The keeper of the cross-roads store usually gets the other half of the crop for the bacon, hominy and calico with which he supplies the family while the crop is being raised. The surety of earning even two dollars a day in real money is to these negroes in the nature almost of finding a gold mine.

Those communities or States in the South which complain of the exodus of their negroes must face the facts. Unless they can assure these people of earning about as much as they can

earn in the North, the negroes will leave them.

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Newspaper Cutting Bureau in the World

REPUBLICAN

Springfield, Mass.

MAR 1 1917

NEGROES ON TOBACCO FARMS

Views of an Opponent of the Proposal To the Editor of The Republican:—

A recent news article in The Republican announced a project of the Hampden county improvement league for importing southern Negroes to this section to serve as farm laborers. As the league requested public expression regarding its plan, may I offer a word in protest?

In my judgment two or three considerations ought to weigh heavily against any such move as the league contemplates. Ever since the civil war the race question has been the problem of the South. Why intensify it by bringing it north? The South has its black belt. Why create a black belt in the North? Prior to the civil war Lincoln and the North fought against the further extension of slavery. Lincoln went further than his party and advocated the removal of all Negroes to Africa, their native land. For the good of both races would that his advice had been heeded!

Now it is proposed to bring southern Negroes north. Why? To labor on the farms. Exactly the reason urged by the southern planter! Let us not be so blinded by the demand for "cheap labor" and industrial gain as not to see the greater social and political problems which must inevitably attend any such movement. If the Negro laborers come they will come to stay—they and their families. Have we not already sufficient variety in our population for the time being? Is industrial haste so imperative that we must sacrifice to it the national welfare? Would not the improvement league, admirable as it is in its work, be serving the state more surely, if perhaps more slowly, by directing its energies to better distribution of labor already at hand, to promote legislation which will take the immigrant directly from Ellis Island to a farm, to more scientific, if less extensive, farming, to better and fairer facilities for marketing rather than by fostering a project which carries with it possibilities of such undesirable consequences? R. G. PATTERSON.

Springfield, February 20, 1917.

REPUBLICAN

Springfield, Mass.

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